

Oberlin

FALL 2002

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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show their age
should we intervene?

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Fall 2002

Oberlin

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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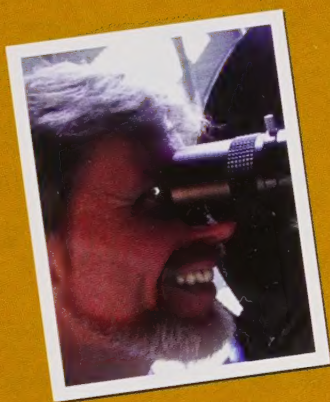
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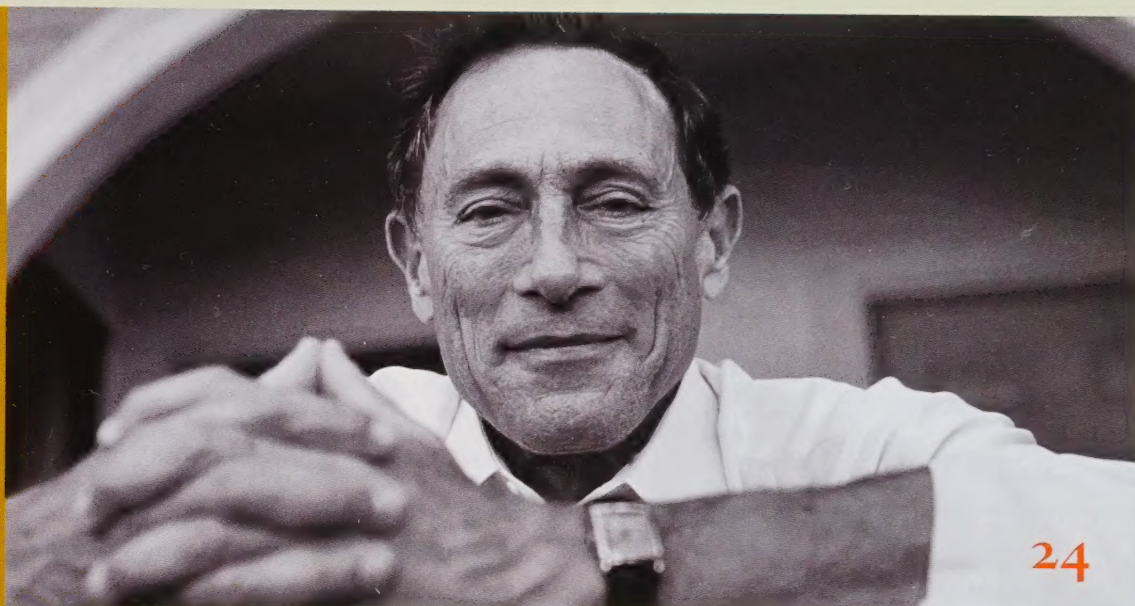
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Cover illustration of The Mona Lisa Courtesy of The Brigham Art Library International



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Oberlin's Yeomen

IN FURTHER EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ALUMNI WITH NEWS of the Oberlin community, this issue of the OAM includes a section called *Heisman Highlights*, formerly a separate publication of the Oberlin College Heisman Club.

Although Yeomen and Yeowomen achievements and other related articles will continue to appear in the OAM, this yearly special section will include features that take a more in-depth look at the players and coaches who make up the College's 20-plus sporting organizations. This newly formed partnership is also part of a reorganization in the sports information department, which includes a revamp of the office's web site (www.oberlin.edu/athletic).

First published in 1986, *Heisman Highlights* was instituted by the Oberlin College Heisman Club, named in honor of John William Heisman (1869-1936), the first professional coach at the College. In 1892, he led the Yeomen football team to a perfect 7-0 record.

More than a century later, the nearly 4,000-member club continues to work toward strengthening the College's athletic programs. One shining example can be seen in men's basketball, which celebrates its centennial this year as the team prepares for a season with a new coach and a positive outlook. Then there is the women's 4x100 track team, which placed first in the conference last season and went on to compete in the NCAA Championships.

Through the years, the College's commitment to excellence has had a nurturing effect on many talented players and coaches, some of whom have left Oberlin in pursuit of higher achievements. Ann Gilbert '91, the former women's basketball head coach, is one such example. After eight seasons with the Yeowomen, she has accepted the position of assistant head coach at Michigan State University. No doubt her replacement, Christa Champion, former women's head coach at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts, will have some big shoes to fill.

These are just a few of the stories of accomplishment alumni can expect to find in *Heisman Highlights*, as it joins the OAM in honoring the athletes who are proud to have called Oberlin home.

THE EDITORS

LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

Go to www.oberlin.edu/wwwcomm/ats to read *Around The Square*, an Oberlin College newsletter that brings you back to campus without having to leave home.



The new Century campaign is progressing, visit www.oberlin.edu/~develop/news to read *The News of the Century* newsletter.



Oberlin Alumni Magazine welcomes mail from readers. Please address your comments to Oberlin Alumni Magazine, 145 W. Lorain St., Oberlin, OH 44074-1089, e-mail: alum.mag@oberlin.edu, P: 440.775.8182, F: 440.775.6575. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and space. Additional letters may be printed on OAM's web site at www.oberlin.edu/~alummag/alum_mag.html.

• RESPONSIBLE ACTIVISM

It's a fine thing if a mob of citizens with a particular bias blocks a meeting of representatives of democratically-elected governments — that's the message the OAM gave by uncritically printing "A New Age of Activism" by Sara Marcus '99 (Spring 2002). Blocking access is a coercive method that I am sure Liz Guy '99 would not tolerate if done by a group with whom she disagrees — for example, the antiabortionists. If you want to change the actions of our government, then mobilize public opinion with pressure groups, vote, run for office, contact government officials, and demonstrate publicly without obstructing the rights of others. These are the means our system and our Constitution provide. If there is a place for coercive mob action it is against totalitarian, repressive governments. I was proud to learn about the legitimate forms of activism of dedicated Obies in the remainder of the article.

John D. Pruitt '55
Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania

• SAYING GOODBYE

I had the privilege of being one of the first-year students who witnessed Instructor Norman S. Care as he strode rather nervously to the podium for the first lecture of his first introductory philosophy course on the first day of his first autumn at Oberlin. The first thing he did was to circulate a seating chart and ask us to fill it with our names. I thought, 'Give us a break, Mr. New Professor! What is this, Oberlin College or Podunk High?' He proceeded with his lecture-cum-discussion on determinism vs. free will, looking down at his seating chart whenever some brave soul would raise a hand. To tell the truth, I was relieved when it was all over: This brand-new, untenured, seemingly nice but shy young faculty member had made it through his very first lecture in one piece. Whew! Too bad he needed the "crutch" of a seating chart to connect with the real people in his audience. Two days later, we filed back into the lecture hall and sat wherever we landed; the last thing on our minds was that precious seating chart. Mr. Care resumed his lecture on determinism,

encouraging us to interrupt at will. At first, a number of brave students—eventual philosophy majors, as I recall—raised their hands to ask intelligent questions. Later, following at least a dozen braver souls, I raised my own timid hand. To this day, I haven't the slightest idea what my (no doubt naive) question was, but I'll never forget the answer: "Good question, Mr. Witheridge." I practically fell off my chair! This man had memorized, not only my name, but all of our names—every one of them—as if he'd had nothing better to do during the previous 48 hours! I went on to take a number of other philosophy courses at Oberlin, including Professor Care's renowned ethics course, but I'll never forget my first week away from home on a strange and somewhat scary campus—and my first experience with that shy but extraordinarily engaged and caring instructor. He did care, he really did, and I sincerely do not mean that as a pun.

Tom Witheridge '69
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Daniel Merrill's sensitive

MEMORIAL MINUTE for Norman S. Care brought me in closer touch with Dr. Care's contributions to both the Oberlin scene and larger philosophical realms. My recollections of Norm stem from his high school years in Gary, Indiana; for as pianist in the very first Norm Care Orchestra (discounting groups of the same name led by his father). I clearly remember dining room rehearsals in which Norm's youthful tact was considerably strained in whipping together our rendition of *Five Foot Two*. At a later prom engagement, Norm's deep humanity failed him completely as my excessive use of triplet chords in *Blue Moon* were rewarded with a dandy bean on the head from a flying drumstick! I miss

“ If there is a place for coercive mob action

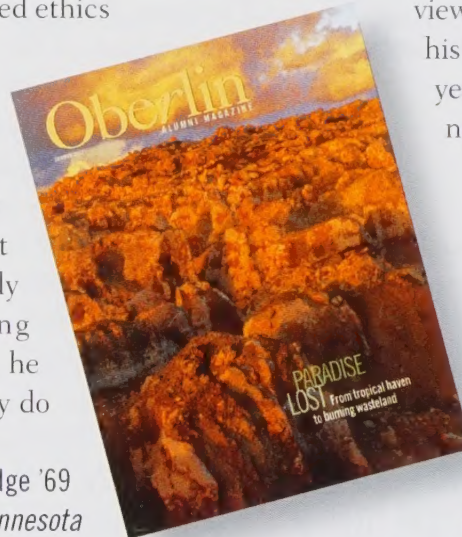
it is against totalitarian, repressive governments.”

Norm from a perspective less cultivated than those shared by his Oberlin colleagues, but one no less vivid or cherished.

Fred B. Binckes '58
Billings, Montana

Thank you for your remembrance of Norm Care. I can only add that he had a keen sense of wit, and every once in a while some gem would pass from his lips. I remember sitting down to a dinner in a restaurant in Elyria, as part of an Education Commission meeting. Looking out the window, Norm said, "You know, the great thing about America is that no matter where you go, you have a view of the highway." I have tested his observation for the past 25 years or so, and he was right, and not just in Ohio.

Roger Sherman '72
Seattle, Washington



Editor's Note: A Memorial Minute for Norm Care appeared in the Summer 2002 issue of OAM

I was deeply saddened to recently hear of Professor

Geoffrey Blodgett's passing. When people inquire how someone with a Judaic and Near Eastern studies major became an urban planner, I invariably mention Professor Blodgett's name. He helped to expose my mind to the fantastic pageant of 19th century American history as well as to architecture — neither, of which I expressed much interest in beneither an advisee of his nor a history major, Professor Blodgett unwittingly gave me food for thought for channeling my altruism. His tales of young educated urban reform-minded Americans at the close of the 19th century, in conjunction with myriad slides of cities, structures, and parks, led me to view the world in a new light. The professions of urban planning and architecture were revealed to have potentially transforma-

tive powers. I honestly could never thank him enough for unwittingly disclosing this practical means for achieving my do-gooding dreams. Moreover, his majestic lectures, often reminiscent of wonderful PBS specials, were truly something to behold and treasure. And yet he was utterly humble and always managed to insert some self-effacing levity into his erudition. I'll never forget him for oversleeping on the day of my architecture final (the departmental secretary had to wake him up with a phone call) or "accidentally" sprinkling photos of himself as a dashing young scholar (which showcased why he was deservedly nicknamed "Blod the Bod") in the pages of our reserve readings. I will truly miss this wonderful jovial educator who really embodied the Oberlin spirit of making the world a better and more enlightened place.

Bruce Kaplan, AICP OC '93/4
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Editor's Note: A Memorial Minute for Geoffrey Blodgett appears on page 54.

● THE HUMAN FOOTPRINT

I was horrified to read the author's advice on how to erase the human footprint. (Summer 2002) Did he pay any attention to logic and Oberlin-style rhetoric? In the memorable words of a Fred Small song, "Don't blame the children." THEY aren't the problem, and merely cutting down the number we have will do nothing to solve consumption problems. The typical American family (with few children) consumes more than a large, starving family in Africa. I'm not a statistician, but it seems logical that merely to replace our current population we need to have two children per family, but this assumes everyone has children and there are no accidental deaths. Ask the victims of any number of tragedies: accidental deaths happen. And there are people who don't have children (for any number of reasons). You're not proposing limiting the damage we humans cause. You're proposing either genocide or species-wide suicide. You don't want to erase the footprint, you want to obliterate the beings who made it. Surely this is inconsistent with valuing biodiversity, human and civil rights, among other things.

Chris Garton-Zavesky '90
Gastonia, North Carolina

“ You don't want to erase the footprint,
you want to obliterate the beings who made it. ”

I was disappointed and offended by Professor Carl McDaniel's article in the OAM entitled "Paradise for Sale." It contains a thinly veiled attack on religious belief, which Professor McDaniel dismisses as "demonstrably false," "naive," and a "fantasy worlds estranged from biological and physical reality." Furthermore, Professor McDaniel expresses the hope that what happens "in a home, school, or place of work" holds hope for preventing another "mass extinction of life" for which we humans are responsible. It is sad, and offensive, that he makes no mention of the role religious institutions might play in preventing such an extinction of human life. Professor McDaniel needs to develop an appreciation of the role of religion in nurturing respect and care for the earth. He needs to see that religious faith can come to the aid of his cause! For example, the Biblical tradition speaks of the world as a garden lovingly created and ordered by God. And it tells us that the "earth is the Lord's" and is therefore not to be despoiled by careless humans. At the end of his article, Professor McDaniel lauds Oberlin's "traditional concerns of equity, fairness, social justice, and respect for diversity" as utterly essential to overcoming environmental destruction. Professor McDaniel would be rewarded by studying Oberlin's early history. He would learn that Oberlin's passion for "equity, fairness, social justice, and respect for diversity" was born of the passionate evangelical, Biblical faith of Oberlin's founders. Professor McDaniel, like so many others, have conveniently forgotten the religious roots of Oberlin's heritage, which has alienated me greatly from the College in recent years.

Rev. James D. Edwards '73
Doylestown, Ohio

● GREEN MACHINE

Thank you for publishing Professor Scofield's history of the Lewis Center's mechanical design (Summer 2002). I have used it to illustrate for several colleagues

how far the engineering profession has to go to make advanced-design green buildings work to their full potential. If only engineering were so elegant as physics! But two decades of construction management has taught me that MEP (mechanical-electrical-plumbing) design is in large part a practice of expedience and compromise, revising and re-revising equipment to meet constraints of space, time, budget, and client requests. Not to mention various pressures to use the tried-and-true in the bowels even of an architect's dream. The Oberlin community should not feel that the Lewis Center is unique or unusually flawed in this respect; or that the building does not perform up to the original, conceptual performance estimates. Flawed energy analysis by professionals is all too common. Describing the absurdities that routinely crop up would make this letter far too long. Professor Scofield obviously has the perspective and material to introduce students to rigorous building energy analysis and I sincerely hope that he is doing so. It is a highly marketable skill and an important opportunity for practical applied physics. Drawing the thermodynamic system boundary is at the heart of much energy analysis. How it is drawn affects the problem we see. Once we see that the boundary needs to go out to the town of Oberlin's electric generating plant (about a mile down South Professor, not far past Old Barrows), why not consider recovering the waste heat there for the campus system. Such a co-generation arrangement, a proven technology, increases electric process efficiency from 35% to over 70%. The waste heat generated steam would displace steam from the coal-fired boilers of the campus system. The Oberlin community as a whole would benefit, along with acid rain damaged lakes in the Adirondacks and the global atmosphere. Reliance on coal is not just the Lewis Center's dirty little secret.

Michael Bobker '73
Brooklyn, New York

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JANUARY 23–FEBRUARY 2, 2003

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ESCORTED BY BRUCE SIMONSON, PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY

Join fellow Oberlinians on one of the world's most thrilling and dramatically beautiful journeys—a coach and rail tour of the magnificent Canadian Rockies, a land of legend, still unspoiled and still home to abundant wildlife. We'll stay in Banff and Lake Louise in landmark hotels built by the Canadian Pacific Railroad and from Jasper we'll enjoy 2 days aboard the Rocky Mountaineer train enjoying spectacular scenery from our dome car accommodations. We'll overnight in Kamloops before arriving in Vancouver on the shores of the Pacific. Our 12-day journey concludes with a cruise from Victoria to Seattle sailing through the San Juan Islands.

UPCOMING TOURS

London Theater Tour, June 2003 (with Professors David Walker and David Young)
Theater Tours from Oberlin to Stratford and Shaw Festivals. (2003 Dates to be arranged.) Call Alumni Office for brochure.

Japan: Kyoto, Takayama and Tokyo, Fall 2003

The Mighty Amazon River aboard the *La Amatista*, January 2004

Greece, May 2004

Mongolia, Summer 2004

Peru: Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca, Fall 2004

For more information about any of our tours, please contact the OBERLIN COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, BOSWORTH 107, 50 W. LORAIN ST., OBERLIN, OH 44074-1089; phone: 440.775.8692; e-mail: Alumni.Office@oberlin.edu; or visit our web site at www.oberlin.edu/alumassc

CHINA AND YANGZI CRUISE

MARCH 29–APRIL 15, 2003

ESCORTED BY CHARLES MASON, CURATOR OF ASIAN ART, ALLEN MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM

Cruise through the scenic Three Gorges of the Yangzi, which will shortly be flooded as part of the huge dam construction. Also enjoy three full days in Beijing, visiting the Summer Palace, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall. Our itinerary also takes us to Xian, site of the famous terracotta warriors of China's first emperor, Qinshihuang; to Dunhuang, site of one of the most valuable troves of Buddhist art in the world, the Mogao Caves; and to Chongqing, where visits will include the huge Sleeping Buddha at Baodingshan, the pandas in the Chongqing Zoo, and the General Stilwell Museum. Our trip ends in Shanghai, home of China's world-class art museum, and includes a day trip to Suzhou to see its famous literati gardens. Charles Mason will give daily briefings on the art we will see. An opportunity not to be missed. Brochure available in early fall.

NORWAY

AUGUST 8–17, 2003

FACULTY ESCORT TO BE ANNOUNCED

In describing Norway—the scenery and the friendly people—it is difficult not to use the word *spectacular* repeatedly! Our 9-day tour begins with 3 nights in Oslo, with guided sightseeing and free time included. Boarding the Flam train we'll journey to the village of Lofthus for 2 nights on the majestic Hardanger Fjord, where we'll delight in the breathtakingly beautiful views of snow-capped mountain peaks reflected in the crystal-clear water. And, finally, 3 nights in the Hanseatic port city of Bergen, one of Norway's most charming and historic cities. Our hotels are all centrally located for easy exploration during free time and our itinerary includes comprehensive guided visits. Your holiday may be extended if you join the optional 3-night extension in Reykjavik, Iceland.



Around Tappan Square

Charting *the Stars*

story by Yvonne Gay Fowler
photos by Gabriel Graff '04

When Peters Hall Observatory assistant Mike Williams learned that a Celestron 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope would soon be on the market, he wasted no time in helping to obtain it for Oberlin.

The telescope came from an astronomer who had owned it for several years, but thought it too big to drag out of his home, place in a field, and set up. He probably used it only three or four times," says associate professor of astronomy Daniel Stinebring, who carefully removes a plastic covering to reveal this latest acquisition by the newly renamed Department of Physics and Astronomy.



Purchased at the bargain price of \$7,500 last May, the C-14 replaces the department's 10-year C-11, which is pegged for field study use once a portable mount is bought.

Unlike its predecessor, the C-14's aperture offers more light-gathering ability and greater details in lunar and planetary observation. It's also the largest of the Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. More impressive, however, is its drive. "A telescope drive's main purpose is to very accurately counteract the Earth's rotation, so that once you have an object lined up in the center of the telescope, it will stay lined up," Stinebring explains. "This drive has a mechanical set up that can not only track very accurately, but can also carry a lot of weight, enabling us to hang accessories, like an electronic camera, off the telescope."

Also significant in the instrument's purchase is its Losmandy equatorial mount, which replaces an older, much shakier fork mount. To illustrate its effectiveness, two people jumped on the floor near the telescope while someone else looked through the eyepiece. The mount was able to diminish vibrations almost instantaneously, a helpful

quality, particularly when many people are in the observatory together.

The C-14 arrived at Oberlin just as the physics department was wrapping up a two-year revamp aimed at improving the facilities for teaching introductory astronomy courses. With help from a 1978 bequest from the John W. Taylor family, the department was able to upgrade equipment, install the Peters Hall planetarium, and hire Williams and Lee Lumpkin as observatory assistants. An Oberlin resident, Williams spearheaded the development of the planetarium in Peters, which called for installation of a dome and the purchase of a planetarium projector and other equipment.

"One of the reasons we bought the equipment is that we are finally offering a lab course in astronomy," Lumpkin says. "Last semester, students in the astronomy course took six sessions in the planetarium. Now we have the opportunity for eight or nine viewings here in the observatory."

"And that's where having Lee and Mike as part of the team makes such a difference,"



Professor of Astronomy Daniel Stinebring

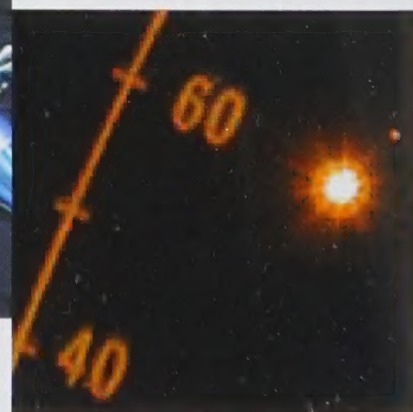
Stinebring adds. "They have backgrounds in amateur astronomy, which allows them to get other people familiar with the night sky."

Stinebring says that increased student interest in astronomy over the past five years has prompted other changes as well, including a departmental name change. Until recently, astronomy courses were offered through the Department of Physics. Now, students who are interested in exploring distant planets are directed to the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Projects are underway to further improve lab sessions and advanced classes, and the observatory opened for public viewing this spring.

"We have plans to let some advanced students use the C-14 for training projects, but that will come a little later," Stinebring says. For now, introducing students to the Andromeda galaxy, constellations, globular clusters, "and all of the other beautiful and mind-stretching things that can be seen through a telescope" is satisfying enough. ●



left: Celestron 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, below: a planet projected in the department's planetarium.



Keeping Tradition Alive

Oberlin's Tried and True Alumni-elected Trustee System

story by Yvonne Gay Fowler

photo by Al Fuchs



Joseph Markoff '65, Karen Florini '79, Amy Gittler '72, Joseph Molder '53, and Xavier Pi-Sunyer '55

Being chosen by your peers to serve on a college board that is ultimately responsible for the future character of the institution could make anyone's heart beat a little faster. Just ask Karen Florini '79.

"When the Alumni Nominating Committee called to say that they wanted to nominate me, I was surprised to say the least," recalls Florini. "After I picked my jaw

up off the kitchen floor, I realized that I couldn't possibly say no." It had been several years since she was told that one of her classmates had nominated her to serve as an Alumni-elected Trustee, and Florini says she had long since assumed that her services were not needed.

She couldn't have been more wrong. Now a six-year veteran, Florini's career

experiences as a senior attorney with the Environmental Defense in Washington, D.C., are welcome ingredients to the board, where she also serves as chair of both the budget and finance committee and an ad hoc committee helped oversee construction of the Science Center.

"It's a wonderful opportunity," says Florini, who was (continued on page 8)

POSITION OPENING

Executive Director of the Alumni Association

Midge Brittingham '60, executive director of the Alumni Association for 25 years, is planning to retire. The search committee, appointed by President Nancy Dye to recommend a replacement, submits this job description and encourages applications.

The Alumni Association at Oberlin College seeks applications for the position of executive director of the Alumni Association. This is a full-time, 12-month, Administrative and Professional Staff position in the division of Development and Alumni Affairs. The executive director will work closely with the president and the executive board of the Oberlin Alumni Association on matters pertaining to policy, direction, and execution of programs under the aegis of that organization. The executive director will report to the vice president for development and alumni affairs on matters pertaining to performance, management, and general strategies relating to the activities of the Alumni Association as part of the Division of Development and Alumni Affairs at Oberlin.

RESPONSIBILITIES The executive director is the chief alumni officer on campus and has primary responsibility for overseeing the activities

of the Oberlin Alumni Association, including College and Conservatory alumni. He/she supervises professional and administrative staff to ensure the quality and quantity of alumni events and support services. The executive director also serves as principal liaison to the Alumni Council, the ruling body of the Alumni Association. His/her responsibilities include generating and building loyalty and financial and volunteer support of Oberlin College among alumni.

Specific duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Oversee on-campus alumni activities, including class and special reunions, Commencement/Reunion weekend, the Alumni Council Weekend, and other campus activities.
- Oversee regional activities and alumni electronic communications and participate in regional alumni activities.

- Staff and support the Alumni Council structure of College and Conservatory alumni, which includes officers, the executive board, Alumni Council committees and affiliate groups.
- Be responsible for the department budget.
- Attend regional alumni events and other events as needed.
- Enhance communication between alumni and the College and increase awareness of the role of alumni through college relations and admissions programs and special projects as well as regular meetings with administration and other offices.
- Represent the Alumni Association and/or the Division of Development and Alumni Affairs at meetings on and off campus.
- Generate materials and reports for the Alumni Council board and committees.
- Oversee the growth and change in electronic communications and further develop the online community. (continued on page 8)

(Position/continued from page 7)

- Oversee the development of the travel tours program and educational seminars, staffing them when appropriate.
- Respond to or delegate correspondence and telephone communications directed to the department head.
- Other related duties as assigned by the president or vice president for development and alumni affairs.

REQUIREMENTS Bachelor's degree from Oberlin College strongly preferred; substantial experience in office and program management as well as recruiting, working with, and motivating volunteers. Excellent interpersonal skills, demonstrated ability to work well in a team setting with diverse groups of people. Demonstrated organizational skills with ability to generate creative approaches to problem solving and to make decisions under pressure. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Flexible schedule and willingness to travel to and participate in evening and weekend events (approximately 10 weekends per year).

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS Master's degree or other advanced degree, knowledge of Oberlin's history, and familiarity with recent campus developments.

COMPENSATION Salary within the range established for this position will depend on qualifications and experience. Compensation includes a generous benefits package, including pension program, medical and long-term disability insurance, one month's vacation, life insurance, and tuition support for self, spouse/partner and eligible dependents.

TO APPLY Interested persons should submit a letter of interest and résumé by January 30, 2003, to John Hays, Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs, 50 West Lorain Street, Oberlin, OH 44074. ●

(Alumni-Trustee/continued from page 7)

recently re-elected to a second six-year term. "I'm glad I can be a part of it. And I was fascinated to learn recently that the alumni-elected trustee system has a long tradition."

Oberlin's Board of Trustees, the governing body of the College, first met on March 10, 1834, less than one year after the institution opened. In 1878, the 18-member administration authorized participation by alumni in the selection process. However, the administration still had the authority to vote on the candidate. It wasn't until 1892 that the administration finally agreed to a strict alumni-elected trustee system.

Today, there are 24 board-appointed and six alumni-elected members (one trustee is elected every year for a six-year term), working together for the common good of the College.

According to Jean Bailey Jerauld '69, chair of the Trustee Search Committee of the Alumni Council, the number of colleges with an alumni-elected trustee system is dwindling. "The concept of alumni-elected trustees is a logical extension of Oberlin's ethic of service and tradition of engagement," she says. "The alumni-elected trustees are welcomed as equals and often bring a different perspective to the

deliberations of the board."

To keep the tradition strong, alumni are encouraged to submit nominations to the Alumni Office. There, background information on the nominees is gathered and sent to the Alumni Council's Trustee Search Committee, which meets twice a year to review nominations. "Previous nominees are also considered," explains Jerauld. "The extraordinary and varied talents of the pool of nominees gives us the opportunity to select candidates according to the current needs and future challenges of the College." The final candidates are placed on the annual fall ballot.

Larry Gladieux '65 was in the middle of starting his own consulting company when members of the Trustee Search Committee came knocking in the spring of 2000. But it didn't take long for him to accept the position, just as his father had done nearly 50 years ago. He now serves on the Budget and Finance and the Academic Affairs committees.

"Since I knew I was going to become a trustee, I started attending more alumni meetings and events in Washington, D.C., where the concentration of alumni is one of the highest," Gladieux says. "I'm connecting with alumni more than before because I'm representing them." ●

Get Involved...

By nominating alumni who have a deep regard for the unique character of the College, and who have the talents to serve Oberlin in its pursuit of educating undergraduates in the arts and sciences and in professional music.

By voting for one of the Alumni-elected Trustee candidates that appear on mailed fall ballots. The committee is hoping to offer the first electronic vote with this year's ballot, but the option of paper ballots will continue.

By becoming active Alumni Council members. Members serve in many roles, including working in regional activities, admissions, fund raising, and affiliate groups, and they are eligible for appointment to the Trustee Search Committee.

Nomination letters should be submitted to the Alumni Office at 50 West Lorain Street, Oberlin, Ohio 44074. E-mail: alumni.office@oberlin.edu ●

—Jean Bailey Jerauld '69, chair of the Trustee Search Committee of the Alumni Council and Cynthia Brown '74, member, Trustee Search Committee

Strengthening *Race Relations*

**Community leaders, citizens,
and educators strive for balance**

story by Yvonne Gay Fowler

photos by Peter Ogbuji

In July, inside a conference room at the city's public library, members of the Oberlin Race Relations Committee (RRC) gathered to discuss ways it might help level the racial playing field, promote diversity in decision making, and raise awareness of racial attitudes. The meeting was one of several the town-and-gown group has had since it was founded in September 2001, after the city's now defunct Inter-Agency Council identified race relations as one of the main reasons why many minorities did not take full advantage of local services and programs.

"We are moving into a coalition-building phase of our work," says Peter Ogbuji, assistant director of the Center for Service and Learning at the College and one of the group's moderators. "The most challenging part of what we are doing is how to make our work unifying and healing at the same time. Community building, which is the

work of the RRC, is like raising a child. You admonish, yell, and scream, but you also hug that child."

One of the RRC's major undertakings thus far was the diversity survey it conducted among 34 organizations and employers in Oberlin during 2001. Daphne John, chair of sociology and associate professor at the College, served as consultant on the project. In John's analysis of the survey, local business owners said "they do reach out to members of the minority community, but are less likely to actually have plans or processes in place to deal with equal opportunity, community issues, or race relations." To help them better serve the community, business owners suggested that education in the form of workshops on racial and ethnic diversity be implemented. (John's entire 18-page report is available at the reference desk at the Oberlin Public Library).



Residents enjoy food and fellowship at the second annual RRC community-wide picnic.

One response to these findings: the RRC created a safe and comfortable space where citizens would be encouraged to speak freely about improvements in race relations. The group's first such Deliberative Forum, held in January, was attended by 22 residents. With word spreading, this summer over 50 citizens took part in discussions. "We are very clear that the RRC is not the only entity that will solve or address the racial challenges facing the community," Ogbuji says. "We understand that the solutions will have to come from different individuals and organizations."

The annual summer RRC-sponsored community-wide picnic which began last year has also been well received. At both events more than 250 residents from all walks of life have enjoyed food, music, and warm fellowship. ●

For more information call 440-775-8055; or e-mail Oberlinrrc@yahoo.com.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

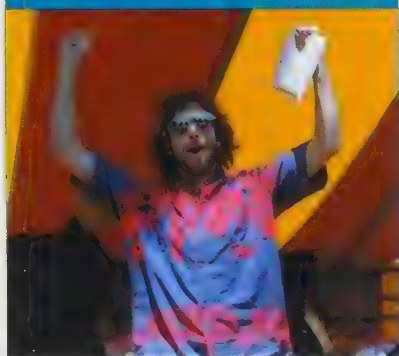
The College's 2002-03 Convocation Series continues throughout the year with lectures that are free to the public. Each begins at 8 p.m. in Finney Chapel.

J.M. Coetzee. "A Reading," October 10, 2002 Named South Africa's "Writer of the Millennium" in March 2000, Coetzee is the recipient of many international literary awards and was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996. During his 30 years at the University of Cape Town, Coetzee was instrumental in developing the institution's creative writing program. He currently lectures at the University of Chicago as a visiting professor in the Committee on Social Thought.

Gardner Calvin Taylor '40. "Appealing to the Supreme Judge," February 3, 2003. One of the most sought-after preachers in the world, Taylor's sermons can be heard on 100 radio stations around the world. He was instrumental in establishing the Progressive National Baptist Convention and is the recipient of 12 honorary degrees, including the Oberlin Alumni Citation for Influence as a Preacher in 1957 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Lynn Margulis. "The Living Earth: Inheritance of Acquired Genomes," April 15, 2003. A Distinguished University Professor of Geoscience at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Margulis' work encompasses original contributions to cell biology and microbial evolution. She currently co-directs NASA's Planetary Biology Internship Program. ●

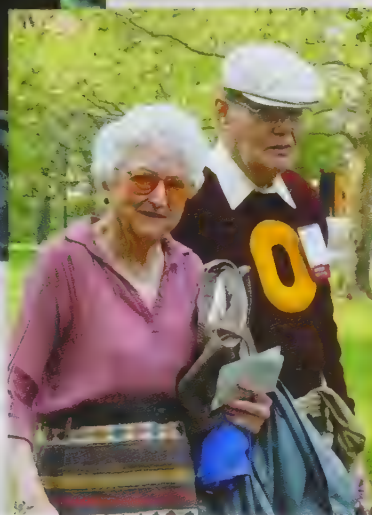
For more pictures
of Commencement/
Reunion weekend
visit Oberlin Online
at www.oberlin.edu/corelat/commencement



Al Fuchs



Al Fuchs



Gabriel Graft '04



Al Fuchs

ALUMNI DAY OF SERVICE

Oberlin On May 4, Obies rolled up their sleeves and cleared away trash at Plum Creek before heading over to the Amphitheater to do some gardening. Afterwards, alumni joined current students to watch the "Big Parade" and community fair complete with circus performers, games, and live entertainment in Tappan Square.



Paul Treuhart '64, (far right) spearheaded this year's Service Day events

Lexington, Kentucky On April 20, alumni participated in the second annual tree planting in Alumni Grove at the Lexington Arboretum. For Arbor Day 2001, the grove was named in honor of the eight college alumni groups who have funded and planted trees. Local Oberlin alumni spearheaded the effort. This year the tradition continued, with seven institutions participating alongside members of the Daisy Scouts. The live drumming group



John Palombi '83

Dave Ferris, Tripp Branton & Friends entertained tree planters.

Boston The Boston Service Day at the Food Project's organic farm in Lincoln, Massachusetts, was a great success with some 20 Obies and their children spending the morning planting two miles of potatoes, cantaloupes, and watermelons, and the remainder of the day weeding strawberries, scallions, and spinach. Before heading out to the fields, organizers conducted team building and educational exercises. "The Food Project is a remarkably well-run organization and felt like a good fit for Obies," says Melissa Cook '82. "Everyone from our group seemed to enjoy themselves. ... Our contact invited us back again anytime."

San Francisco, California The San Francisco Bay Area alumni participated in two separate Service Day events: a beach cleanup on the San Mateo Coast on April 20, and working at a San Francisco public elementary school for Rebuilding Together San Francisco on April 27. About 20 alumni turned out for these events.

At the beach cleanup, alumni joined local folks to clean five beaches, and one Obie helped clear out an old encampment of trash. The community thanked the

alumni for a great day.

At Rebuilding Together San Francisco, the project was beautifying the grounds of a San Francisco public elementary school. The grounds had been neglected, and the group helped weed and plant drought-resistant plants.

Washington, D.C. Clyde Owan '79, Steve Goldstein '72, Michel Cavigelli '84, Shana Ageloff '02, Bernie Arons '69, and Graylin Presbury '78 (left to right) joined family and friends in picking up trash along the banks of the Anacostia River during Earth Day. Graylin's hard work earned him special recognition.



Members of the Washington, D.C. group

After collecting seven bags of trash, Clyde attended the event's picnic and rally, where his daughter, Camile, 14, received the first-place award in the Anacostia Watershed Society's poetry contest. Her poem appeared on the back of the T-shirts that were given to all the volunteers. ●

New Coach Raises the Bar for Yeomen Basketball

by Michael McIntyre

Frank "Happy" Dobbs anticipates the day when Oberlin students recognize the effort and tenacity of student-athletes on the basketball court and support them by making the gymnasium in Philips resound with noise.

"We want to make that place a pit, a loud place where the fans can be right on top of the action. They'll make it the place to be whenever there's a game," says Dobbs, who became Oberlin's head basketball coach last July.

In basketball lingo, the fans are collectively known as the "sixth man" on the team. Before Dobbs could begin recruiting his own sixth man for Oberlin's team, however, he was traveling the country recruiting players who will be in uniform. Dobbs looks for two qualities in recruits: intelligence and the ability to play ball. As head coach at Brown University from 1991 to 1999, he's had plenty of experience with such student-athletes.



Al Fuchs

"We're going after the same type of student we went after at Brown," said Dobbs, whose easy manner conveys a sense of confidence and enthusiasm. "We have a nice base to pick from right here in Ohio, and we can look hard in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Michigan. We want to do a great job in those areas. But the reputation of the College and the Conservatory extends throughout the country and the world, so we also want to keep our eyes open across the country."

Dobbs attained his position as Yeomen head coach after beating out more than 100 other applicants. After his tenure at Brown, he worked as an assistant coach at Cleveland State University under head coach Rollie Massimino, for whom Dobbs played on successful teams at Villanova University.

At Villanova, Dobbs—who was the team captain—helped the Wildcats make four consecutive appearances in the NCAA tournament, including two appearances in the "Sweet 16" and two in the "Elite Eight" of the single elimination tournament.

An eighth-round draft choice of the Philadelphia 76ers, Dobbs never played professionally. Instead, he began his coaching career immediately after graduating from Villanova with a bachelor's degree in business marketing. He was an assistant at Dartmouth College from 1984

to 1988 before moving to Boston College as an assistant from 1988 to 1991, when he took the helm at Brown.

Dobbs' enthusiasm and experience has already inspired confidence on campus. "He has coached at many fine institutions. He also has maturity, passion, knowledge of the game, and the ability to relate well to people," says Clayton R. Koppes, vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Although he enjoyed working at the Division I level, Dobbs says when the Oberlin job opened up, he decided he wanted to run his own team again.

Oberlin offered a lot of what I already knew, a lot of what my background is in," he said. "Oberlin is a very good academic school. It's very similar to the situation I had at Brown, and we were able to build that into a respectable program."

Dobbs says he's encouraged that the Yeomen improved last year, but that expectations will be raised.

"What we're expecting is to be successful every year," he said, a tall order since Oberlin's basketball program hasn't had a winning record since the 14-10 season of 1991-92.

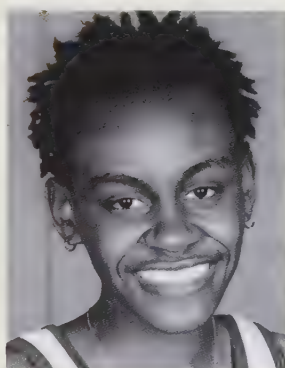
"President (Nancy) Dye has done a terrific job in trying to kick-start athletics here," he continues "and we're trying to make sure athletics are an important part of Oberlin, just like music is an important part of Oberlin."

He wants to improve the team while laying a foundation for good play in the future.

"We're building piece by piece. We want success right away, but we want to do it at a pace where we can fulfill our potential," he says. (continued on page 12)



above: Courtney Stackhouse '03
bottom, left to right: April Wynn '02, Amber Coleman '04, and Teresa Collins '05.



Women's 4x100 Team Wins Conference and Competes in NCAA Championships

by Zachary Pretzer '03

Four sprinters on the women's track and field team bested their competition at the conference championships last spring and got a chance that most collegiate athletes only dream about.

With a time of 48:58, their best time of the season and more than a second faster than the second-place team, Oberlin's 4x100-meter relay team automatically qualified to compete in last May's NCAA Division III National Championships.

The team included senior April Wynn, junior Courtney Stackhouse, sophomore Amber Coleman, and freshman Teresa Collins.

Several team members had qualified for the big event in 2001, but they decided not to go. This year, however, the timing was right.

"We made a different choice this year because of different members and different attitudes," said Stackhouse.

For Coleman, who hails from Maple Heights, Ohio, the trip to nationals was a source of pride

both for herself and her hometown.

Competing in the Division III nationals was very special to me and my community, family, mentors, and coaches," she said.

On competition day, the weather was unfavorable and anxieties were running high in the 4x100 field.

"It was cold and the competition was very good, fierce even. It was obvious that other teams were trying to figure out who the heck we were," Stackhouse said.

"The atmosphere was really tense," Coleman agreed. "People weren't friendly like they are at regular meets. But we went into nationals with the attitude of 'Hey, we're here and we have nothing to lose. No pressure, no stress, just do what we do — run.'"

The team did well, achieving a time of 49:06, a pace that most women's 4x100-meter teams would envy. But it wasn't good enough to qualify for the finals. Oberlin placed 15th in the nation.

"We didn't run our best time, and I think that had something to do with the chilliness," Stackhouse said. "But we did manage to beat another team, straight up, on foot, as opposed to the team who placed behind us because they dropped the baton."

(New Coach/continued from page 11)

The job will not be easy. Although Dobbs' teams at Brown won some big games—such as a 1991 overtime win against Providence College and a 1996 victory over Northwestern—his best season there was a break-even 13-13 in 1994-95. But Dobbs is no Pollyanna. He understands

winning will be difficult, and he sees his job as twofold—to win and to teach.

"The student-athletes at a place like Oberlin are bright kids with the books, but they're still students when it comes to life. My job is to help them become better students in life," he said. "My goal is to have a program that strives for success both on and off the court." ●

For current scores, results, and team information, visit Oberlin Online (www.oberlin.edu/athletic). For football coverage, tune in to WOBL 1320 AM radio.



Head Coach Ann Gilbert Moves to Michigan State

by Zachary Pretzer '03

With Wynn's graduation, Oberlin's sprinters have a hole to fill before they can qualify for nationals again.

"We're losing April, but she was never an intended sprinter. She wanted to be a hurdler and jumper only, but like a champ, she came on the relay teams whenever she was needed," said Stackhouse.

"April will be hard to replace. I don't know who will step up and fill her big shoes—no pun intended," said Coleman. "But I think we can do it again." ●



Gabriel Graff '04

College Honors Former Athletes

Six former Oberlin athletes were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame last May. Comprising the 17th class are (left to right): Robin Cardin Lowe '88, a record setter who totaled 353 saves in 1986, and earned a .943 save percentage in 1987; Jon Laird '84, a three-time All-Ohio Athletic Conference selection in football; David G. Stevenson, Jr. '91, one of the most celebrated swimmers in Oberlin history; Bernth Lindfors '59, an All-American soccer and All-Midwest lacrosse player; Bill "Friar" Tuck '45, a six letter earner in basketball, baseball, and football; and Sidney F. Bellows, class of 1905 (not shown), a two-time football captain, and earner of 7 Ohio Athletic track titles.

After leading the women's basketball team for eight seasons, Ann Gilbert '91 is becoming a Lady Spartan.

She has stepped down from her Oberlin post to join the Michigan State University women's basketball program, where she will be an assistant to Head Coach Joanne McCallie.

The move gives Gilbert, a native of Elyria, Ohio, a chance to coach at the NCAA Division I level in one of the most competitive conferences in the nation, the Big Ten. As an Oberlin player Gilbert excelled as a point guard, but at Michigan she'll work with the post players. She'll also be part of the Lady Spartans' recruiting team.

We are excited to have her join our Spartan family, and we look forward to her helping us pursue championships at the highest level," said McCallie.

"It's an honor to move from Division III to Division I and it doesn't happen very often," Gilbert said.

During her tenure at the helm for Oberlin, Gilbert became the winningest coach in the Yeowomen's 25-year history, with a 58-136 record. She led Oberlin to six postseason conference tournaments in six years and helped develop eight All-NCAC players as well as the 1999 NCAC Newcomer of the Year, Nzinga Broussard '02 of Delaware, Ohio.

Gilbert began her Oberlin coaching career as an assistant women's basketball coach in 1992-93. She was an assistant coach for the men's basketball team in 1993-94 and became women's head coach in 1994. In 1996, she took on the additional responsibilities of senior women's administrator and associate director of athletics.

As a student, Gilbert first played for



Ohio University, a Division I team in the Mid-American Conference. In her sophomore season at OU, she was named Most Outstanding Defensive Player and earned All-MAC honors.

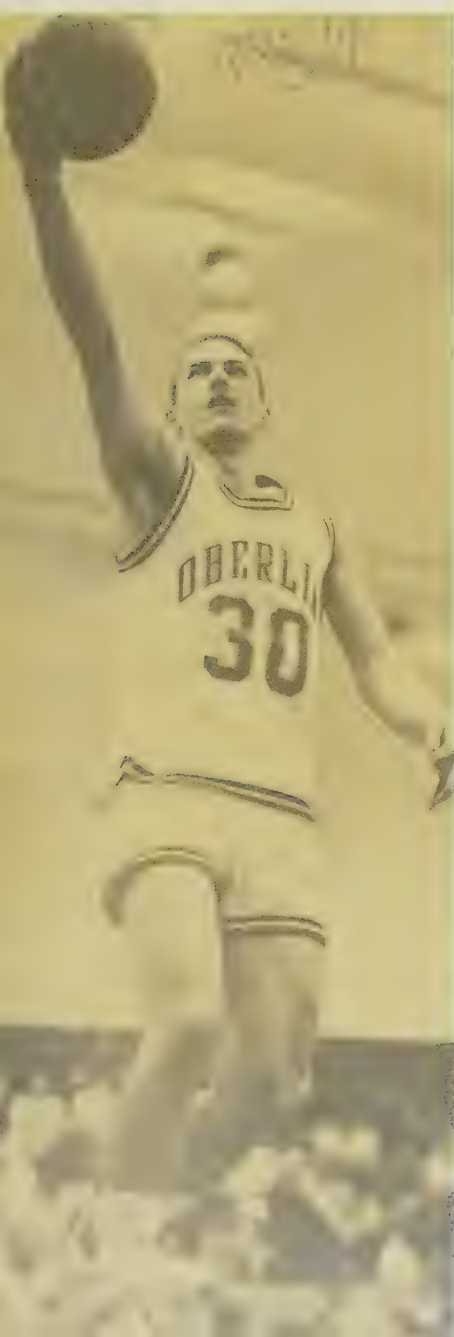
Upon transferring to Oberlin, Gilbert became one of the elite Division III athletes in the nation. She was a two-time NCAC Player of the Year as well as an NCAA Division III first-team All-American. In her first season with Oberlin, she was named a Kodak All-American, a Fastbreak All-American, a Division III scoring leader, and a *Sports Illustrated* Player of the Week. In her senior year, she was named the Honda Division III Player of the Year, the American Women's Sports Federation Player of the Year, and the Champion USA Division III Player of the Year.

As a junior, Gilbert led the nation in scoring with 31.1 points per game; she came in second in her senior year, with 31.2 points per game. In just two years, she racked up 1,527 points and became the school's all-time scoring leader—a record that was broken last season by Broussard. Gilbert set 24 school records and 10 conference records, some of which came from her efforts as a sprinter for the women's track and field team. Her NCAA Division III single-game records for points (61), field goals (28), and field goal attempts (55) remain unsurpassed.

Gilbert graduated in 1991 with a major in sociology and a minor in economics. Her jersey (#22) was retired in 1994, and she was inducted into the Oberlin College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001. ●



above left: Oberlin's first basketball team in 1903. And to the right, the group reunites 50 years later. below: Ronald "Chip" Winiarski '90, an Oberlin Athletic Hall of Famer. (Archives)



100 Years of Yeomen Basketball

by Mike McIntyre

Oberlin celebrates its 100th year of basketball with the satisfaction of knowing it has produced hundreds of excellent scholar-athletes whose educational experiences were enriched by competing on the court.

Although historically the team has struggled, the Yeomen have had some excellent seasons. With 15 wins and 3 losses, the 1949-50 season stands out as one of the best. The 1975-76 trip to the NCAA regional semifinals was another high point. But the strength of Oberlin's program is something more meaningful to many than numbers on scoreboards or entries in record books. The scholar-athlete tradition has been at the center of Oberlin's program throughout its history, and it remains alive and well on the Yeomen court today.

No one exemplifies this tradition more than Ronald "Chip" Winiarski '90, an Oberlin College Athletic Hall of Famer who was perhaps the best player ever to wear an Oberlin uniform.

Winiarski, who played from 1986 to 1990, remains the Yeomen's all-time leader in points scored (2,303), scoring average per game (22.6), field goals attempted (1,923), free throws made (440), and free-throw percentage (.816). In addition to his basketball accomplishments, Winiarski was a star on the baseball diamond. After graduation he played for six years in the minor leagues on teams affiliated with the Cleveland Indians and the Chicago White Sox.

During Winiarski's time at Oberlin, the basketball team had only one winning season, 1987-88, when their record was 14-12. But it's not about wins and losses, contends Winiarski, now manager of continuous improvement for Applied Industrial Technologies in Cleveland. It's about how the experience of playing adds so much to one's overall college experience.

"I didn't go to Oberlin with the intention of playing pro basketball or pro baseball. I wanted to prepare for the rest of my life," says Winiarski, who lives in Bay Village, Ohio.

"Sports teaches you disciplines that may carry over to other parts of your life—teamwork, perseverance, the ability to set goals and achieve them. You need a healthy balance. It's the same type of experience you might get in chemistry lab or at the Conservatory.

"I honestly don't remember the athletic achievements," Winiarski continues. "What I remember are the relationships built on the court, in the locker rooms, and on bus rides. Nobody cares about points scored in your career. What you remember are the great experiences, the relationships with your teammates and coaches."

An Oberlin roundballer from an earlier generation agrees.

George "Dutch" Mytinger '38, also a member of the Oberlin College Athletic Hall of Fame, says even in the days of the two-handed set shot, Oberlin basketball was about relationships.

"We were very good friends, the entire team," says Mytinger, who lives in Oberlin. "The people were nice. The fans were loyal. We all had a good time."

Oberlin has an interesting but little-known connection to basketball's beginnings. When James Naismith invented the game in 1891 as an indoor activity for students suffering through the harsh winters at Springfield College, one of his collaborators was Luther Halsey Gulick, a Springfield College employee who had studied at Oberlin.

With such deep roots and with such strong bonds, the Yeomen basketball program can look forward to its next 100 years with high hopes for more competitive seasons. ●



A Golden Year FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

*A Conversation with Paula Richman '74
Professor of South Asian Religions*

The Department of Religion at Oberlin celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2001-02, as 1951 marked the official break of religious studies from the School of Theology. The year-long commemoration featured lectures and presentations by faculty and alumni, several of which focused on the department's growth over the past five decades. Today, the department has 10 full-time faculty members and 35 to 40 majors in each graduating class. Courses and faculty research span the major religious traditions of the world.

In this article, Paula Richman shares department highlights in a recent interview conducted by the American Academy of Religion. Richman, who chaired the department for the past two years, is on sabbatical in India this semester.

Q: What were the factors that led to the founding of Oberlin's Department of Religion?

Richman: Every department of religion in a small liberal arts college has its own unusual history; this is especially true at Oberlin. We can best describe 1951 as the year that the department was "re-founded" because religion already had been taught here for many years. The phrase that best describes the early years of this re-founded department is "radical and often beleaguered."

Q: How was it beleaguered?

Richman: Like many small colleges that began in the early 19th century, Oberlin had a religious mission to train ministers. Its second president and first professor of theology, Charles Grandison Finney, the most famous preacher of his time, traveled throughout the northern United States, where people flocked to hear him speak. Throughout its history, the College has had some outstanding teachers of Biblical literature and archeology. In the early 1950s, however, when Clyde Holbrook arrived at Oberlin, a new kind of endeavor began. The Oberlin Theological Seminary, which was training ministers, had a specific vocational thrust. In contrast, Holbrook had a vision for a different kind of study of religion, one that was perceived as neither fish nor fowl by already existing programs.

Q: Why?

Richman: In the beginning, it was Holbrook versus the seminary and the philosophy department. The Oberlin School of Theology thought him too secular because he was willing to take seriously



Today's religion faculty (left to right): Joyce McClure, Cynthia Chapman, James Dobbins, Abe Socher, Anna Gade, Caren Calendine, and Paula Richman. Missing are David Kamitsuka, Margaret Kamitsuka, and A.G. Miller. (above) Paula Richman with Piyush Rampuria '03.

the criticisms of religion made by Marx, Freud, and others. In contrast, the philosophy department believed that he was teaching about "faiths" and felt that such study could not be rigorous or carried out according to the highest standards of logic and reason.

Holbrook wanted to create a department that would have a central role in teaching the humanities at Oberlin. He yearned to teach religions in the way that other departments taught history, philosophy, or literature: as a history of human creativity—the ways in which various communities created systems of meaning and moral reasoning. It called for approaching religious texts and traditions not as repositories of "theological" knowledge or correctness, but as attempts to come to terms with the religious dimension of human existence. In the classroom, religious texts and traditions were subjected to empathetic, yet critical analysis, so that undergraduates could understand the experience of religion from a variety of perspectives. I suppose that viewpoint doesn't seem at all radical now, but it was very radical in the 1950s.

Q: So what happened?

Richman: Holbrook was a smart, determined, and spunky man, as well as an extremely effective teacher. His courses—everything from Jonathan Edwards to Karl Barth to Martin Buber to Kierkegaard—became legendary on campus. Students simply had to take his most renowned class, *Modern Religious Thought* (known

Al Fuchs

affectionately as MRT) to get the best out of Oberlin. He pushed us to consider the philosophical implications of each viewpoint we studied. It was a very demanding course. In fact, there was a famous piece of graffiti on campus: "God took MRT, but only got a B." Holbrook filled the biggest lecture hall on campus every year.

"The classes I took in the Religion Department were some of the most challenging, stimulating, and rewarding classes I took at Oberlin...all of the professors were passionate about their subjects, and all of them were still actively learning about their subjects."

ALISON CARTER '01

British Columbia, taught Chinese and Japanese religion, while Larry Shinn, now president of Berea College, taught Indian religion and Islam.

Equally important, the department's offerings were so lively because our professors cared about more than their own area of expertise. I recall Grover Zinn, now associate dean of the faculty at Oberlin, writing a fascinating article about comparable uses of symbolism in Tibetan mandalas and meditational aids of Western Christian mystics. Tom Frank began taking Oberlin students on archaeological digs at Tell el-Hesi in Israel on a regular basis, so learning extended way beyond the college classroom. Ed Long, now retired from Drew University, wrote a book on ethics that was used in classrooms all over the country. We felt that religion majors were participating in the most current debates in the field of scholarship about religion.

Q: What's happening in the department now?

Richman: In the department's early years, most of the struggles revolved around ensuring that the major religions of the world were central to our curriculum. In addition to teaching Judaism, Christianity, and Asian religions, we worked hard to gain a faculty position in Islam more than a decade ago. Meanwhile, the study of religion as a field was becoming more and more sophisticated about understanding the varieties of lived experience within a single religious tradition, so it was exciting when we were able to add a position in African American religious experience in the

Q: You were a religion major in the early 1970s. What was it like then?

Richman: From the current perspective of someone who did her graduate work on religious traditions of India, what I find most amazing is that we had two full-time, tenure-track people teaching Asian religions. Daniel Overmeyer, who recently retired from the University of



A.G. Miller, Acting Chair 2002-03, teaches American Religious History and specializes in the African American religious experience. David Kamitsuka, a systematic theologian and philosopher of religion, teaches Modern Religious Thought in the West.

"A course called Hebrew Religion taught by Dr. Clyde Holbrook, surely was the key experience that led me to decide to major in religion. He opened up the study of the Bible in ways that were exciting and revelatory. He challenged us to think deeply and question."

JEAN E. BARKER '57

United States. Last year, we received a tenure-track position in the field of women and religion after more than a decade of requesting it.

Now we want to pay attention to religions as transnational systems, such as Buddhism in Asia and North America, and Islam in the Middle East and Indonesia, and teach about how religious traditions exert reciprocal influences on each other. Our faculty explores both constructive and historical religious materials and also

the dimensions of religious experience, such as art, ritual, patterns of daily life, architecture, and clothing. Only by continually expanding and rethinking approaches can a discipline remain alive. ●

(Q&A with Paula Richman is reprinted with permission of <http://www.aarweb.org>, 2002)

The Department of Religion has created a fund for lectures and student projects in honor of its 50th anniversary. Contributions can be sent to the Department of Religion Faculty and Student Support Endowed Fund, c/o Developmental Resources, Bosworth 4, 50 W. Lorain Street, Oberlin, OH 44074.

5 Decades of Religious Studies

by James C. Dobbins, Professor of Religion and East Asian Studies

Beginnings Clyde Holbrook made his academic home at Oberlin for 26 years, designing and managing the Department of Religion from 1951 until 1977. He believed in a critical examination of religion, even admitting the possibility that atheists might be right. He also allowed for an empathetic approach to religion—one that recognized its ennobling and redeeming qualities. This stance became the hallmark of religious study at Oberlin, but it also became the prevailing ethos of religious studies in America, of which Holbrook was one of the pioneers.

In Holbrook's first three years, he taught most of the College's religion courses. Some of Oberlin's classic religion courses appeared soon thereafter: Holbrook's trademark *Introduction to Religion*, in which he laid out his approach to the religion as reflected in Christianity, non-theistic Humanism, Hinduism, and Confucianism; *Life and Teachings of Jesus*, one of the most popular religion courses in College history; *Christian Ethics*, which evolved into *Moral Issues* under Ed Long; and *Modern Religious Thought*.

Consolidations As new faculty members were appointed, Holbrook gradually yielded curricular areas to others, and by the mid-1960s, much of the curriculum was in place. Although weighted toward Christianity (and its Jewish antecedents), courses were taught from Holbrook's distinct non-confessional standpoint. The Christian component was consolidated with the arrival of Tom Frank in Biblical studies in 1964 and Grover Zinn in the history of Christianity in 1966. Nate Greenberg of the classics department taught an annual course on the history of Judaism, and the study of Judaism and Islam expanded with the creation of the Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Program in the early 1970s. That program operated outside the Religion Department, but many courses were cross-listed.

Expansion of Asian Studies If the first phase of the department's development consolidated the area of western religions, the second phase, up to the early 1970s, expanded the non-western ones. This area was established in earnest when Don Swearer arrived in 1965 to teach Asian religions specifically. In 1970, the position grew into two, one emphasizing South Asian religions and the other East Asian.

By the early 1970s, the general shape of the religion department was set. It continued in this configuration for the next two decades, offering areas of concentration in Biblical studies, modern religious thought, ethics, the history of Christianity, South Asian religions, and East Asian religions. Courses in Judaic and Near Eastern studies were cross-listed.

Diverse Voices The department's third phase began in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Marked at first by a new position in Islam, which completed the unfinished business of diversifying religious representation, the department next recognized the need to include diverging voices within religions. New courses focused on the African American religious experience and, more recently, women and religion. It also diversified *Introduction to Religion*, which is taught now as a forum for diverse issues and subject matters.

The study of religion has not been driven by a single organizing principle. Subfields have been defined, sometimes by disciplinary approach, geographical location, historical periodization, or specific religious tradition. Students gradually have become more aware of other religions in the past 50 years. But many also have less understanding of the historically formative religions of American culture. This situation, too, has forced the department to modify how and what is presented in courses. As a field, religious studies is still a work in progress. ●

James C. Dobbins, Professor of Religion and East Asian Studies was the first permanent faculty member in East Asian Religions.

Clyde Holbrook, founder of the Department of Religion and pioneer in the field of Religious Studies.

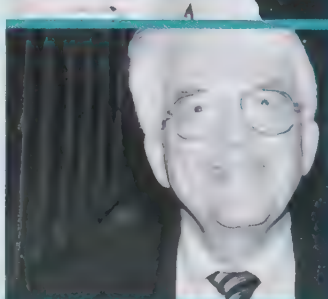
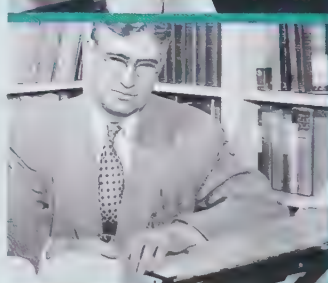
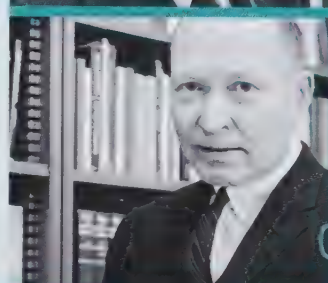
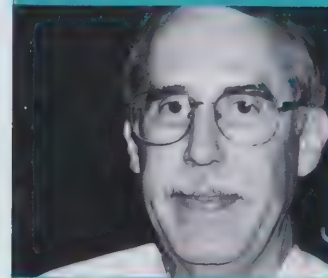
Edward Long, Professors of Ethics and author of a widely used survey of Christian ethics.

H. Thomas Frank, specialist in Biblical archeology.

Herbert G. May, an editor of the Revised Standard Edition of the Bible.

Gordon (Mike) Michalson, a Kant scholar who gave the opening lecture at the 50th anniversary.

Grover Zinn, an historian of Christianity, especially of the twelfth century. (Archives.)



Faculty members throughout the decades

James Beck '52 leads an ardent campaign against potentially damaging restorations. Professional conservators disagree.

by Kristin Ohlson/illustrations Bridgeman Art Library/photos by Al Fuchs

Conservation Wars

As you read this, the Mona Lisa's eyes grow a tiny bit dimmer, her smile recedes into deeper mystery, and the sky behind her glowers with increasing gloom. Flecks of color fall in a steady atomized shower from Giotto's frescoes—from Jesus, from Mary, and from Judas the Betrayer and Peter the Rock. Even contemporary art is beginning to sag, flake, crack, crumple, and discolor as the ravages of time take their toll.

"It's totally naive to think that art is static!" bellows Albert Albano, thumping his hand on his dining room table with such brio that a bottle nearly topples before he catches it and sets it on the floor. Albano is executive director of the Intermuseum Conservation Association (ICA), a regional art conservation center established at Oberlin College's Allen Memorial Art Museum in 1952 which provides conservation treatment and education.

"People go into an art museum where they see cultural materials and think, 'these pieces looked like this five years ago and will look like this in another five years when I come back.' That's not the case. Deterioration is a function of age. That's a law of the globe, and art is no less subject to that law than you or I."

True enough. While the word "timeless" is often applied to

great works of art, they are anything but. When museum visitors admire the old master paintings, they may assume these works always had an amber glow. More likely, however, the paintings are encased in layers of grime and discolored varnish—the latter often applied by long-dead owners, art dealers, and restorers as protection—and even color added by other painters or restorers to make up for original details lost to time.

Key elements of the original painting may even be hidden completely, as a disputed evaluation of Leonardo da Vinci's *Adoration of the Magi* proved earlier this year. For 10 years, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, had been studying how to restore the painting and planned to begin the process in the spring of 2001. However, a group of art scholars, led by controversial art historian and Columbia University Professor of Art History James Beck '52, raised an international furor against the restoration, claiming it might damage the painting.

The Uffizi agreed to abide by the opinion of art diagnostician Maurizio Seracini, who ultimately ruled that the painting wasn't actively deteriorating and didn't require restoration. However, his research revealed a tantalizing world of hidden figures. Using sophisticated techniques to probe beneath the *Adoration's* uppermost layers, Seracini discovered images of men rebuilding a



The Adoration of the Magi (altarpiece) by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence, Italy



Mona Lisa, c. 1503-6 (oil on panel) by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) Louvre, Paris, France

Integrity

ruined structure, a beautiful woman standing near one of the magi, and other obscured details that actually change the interpretation of the painting.

If time and grime aren't enough, disasters both natural and manmade wreak even greater havoc on works of art. The Parthenon tumbled into pieces after being struck by a bomb in the 17th century. In 1966, a flood damaged thousands of rare and old books in Florence; 10 years later, earthquakes in northern Italy ruined church frescoes and wooden sculptures. Fires frequently ravage museums, galleries, and private collections. The most famous fire-damaged painting is one from Monet's *Water Lilies* series, which was scorched during a blaze at New York's Museum of Modern Art in 1958 and still languishes at the Conservation Center of the Institute of Fine Arts—New York University's conservation training program.

For as long as people have anguished over damage to artworks, they've also argued over what to do about it. Throughout the centuries, the debate has focused mostly on the issue of intervention. One side insists that we try to reverse the effects of age and disaster by using the best techniques available to repair or restore works of art. The other side asserts that we should honor these works as artistic and historic artifacts by doing only what preserves their current state. There are many degrees of difference, both within and outside this spectrum of thought.

"The concern for the variety of values in a work of art is certainly not new," says Jerry Podany, president of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and head of antiquities conservation at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. He points to the Renaissance hubbub when Michelangelo was asked to restore an ancient, broken Hellenistic sculpture that had been recently excavated. Michelangelo refused, knowing that the technical limitations of the age meant that he would inflict greater damage on the surface of the sculpture.

In the early 19th century, sculptor Antonio Canova offered similar resistance when asked to restore the Phidias sculptures from the fallen Parthenon. Many professional conservators like Podany share this sense of caution, despite believing that intervention is not only wise—but also necessary—in many circumstances.

"As long as people have created material works of any value, other people have been repairing and restoring them," Podany says. "And there are certainly restorers who have done a great deal of damage to cultural properties—to buildings, to paintings, to sculptures. At every point in history, there have been techniques and materials

that were intended to help and simply didn't. Sometimes, they only made things worse."

Conservation Versus Restoration

SO IF PEOPLE in the art world have been arguing these issues for centuries, why was the recent campaign against the restoration of da Vinci's *Adoration* such big news? The controversy, and James Beck's ultimate victory, were fodder for dozens of newspapers worldwide over the past year.

For one thing, Botticelli, Picasso, and other artists are attaining rock star-like status as museums become must-see locations for tourists (there were also two best-selling novels about Vermeer in the last few years). As a result, controversies within the art world are no longer cloistered there—they tumble into the public arena. Also, the backdrop of historical perspective is usually missing in the media coverage of art-world frays, so they can seem like new phenomena. Finally, these controversies are often presented in the starkest black and white. Observers are left with the impression that those who want to save a work of art through careful treatment are pitted against those who would let it rot from neglect, or that those who would ruin said work of art using aggressive treatment are pitted against those who want to save it from its purported saviors.

And Beck seems content with the harsh dichotomy of the latter impression, reinforcing it with his own sensational comments. "Art historians stay silent and are willing to let the sacred objects they study all their lives go down the drain," he says heatedly. "I don't forgive them for that. We understand what can be lost when the Taliban bombed those 2,000-year-old Buddha statues in Afghanistan, but we've been doing the same thing for 30 years in restoration laboratories."

Beck took center stage in an ongoing controversy over art restoration in the early 1990s. Urged by a concerned colleague, he visited the marble Italian tomb of Ilaria del Carretto, sculpted by Jacopo della Quercia 600 years ago, that had recently undergone cleaning. Beck was incensed by the cleaning and was quoted in a newspaper as saying the tomb looked "as if it had been treated with acid, cleaned with Spic and Span, and polished with Johnson's Wax." He was sued for libel by the Italian restorer responsible



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SAYS ERIC INGLIS '89,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
ART HISTORY.**

for the cleaning and nearly jailed. In the aftermath of the trial, he founded ArtWatch, an international watchdog organization dedicated to the preservation of art. The group keeps an eye on the care and planned restorations of great works and has drafted a set of 11 points for its "Bill of Rights for a Work of Art." The first is, "All works of art



above: The Creation of Adam, detail from the Sistine Ceiling, 1511-12 (fresco) by Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)
right: Post-restoration, Vatican Museums and Galleries, Vatican City, Italy



have the inalienable right to an honourable and dignified existence."

"I'm an old man who has been ostracized for taking a position that was unpopular," Beck told *The New York Times* in February when plans to abandon the *Adoration* restoration were announced. "But now I feel I've done the right thing in Florence."

For all of Beck's disdain for others in the art world—and he sometimes sounds as if he's casting art historians, conservators, restorers, and museum directors alike as Philistines—many in this world have agreed with the ArtWatch principles for years, long before Beck even thought to formulate them. Many applaud his campaign, even though their profession is occasionally smeared by it. "I'm not an opponent of James Beck," Podany says. "I don't always agree with him, and I sometimes think he's less than informed, but I also think some of the restorers he has challenged could have done a better job of explaining what they were doing and why. I welcome his presence as something that further develops my profession to stand firm for what it believes and helps flush out those people who are acting inappropriately."

Others echo Podany's concern that Beck is a less-than-informed critic. "Beck is a master at painting things in black and white," says Joyce Hill Stoner, the former 15-year director of the Winterthur Museum/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, one of three such master's degree-level programs in the country. Now a professor there, her special interest is the history of conservation

with a focus on controversies. Stoner looked into Beck's background and found that even though he had worked at several places where there was a full team of conservators, he had never spent much time in an actual painting conservation lab to learn what they do.

"There is a bit of a problem with the academic art historian, and James Beck is one," says Stoner, who is also a member of ArtWatch. "They have very little contact with real works of art. They work from theory, as opposed to the practicing art museum historians for whom the physical presence of a work of art is a daily part of their lives. It's a growing problem in the whole field of art history because so many people are being trained completely just by looking at photographs of art."

But it's not just Beck who is unclear about conservation, says Erik Inglis '89, assistant professor of art history at Oberlin: Most people have a hazy understanding of what conservators do and who they are, which leads to an even hazier understanding when controversies arise about restoring Da Vinci's *Adoration* or cleaning the Sistine Chapel, a 20-year project that ended in 1999. Inglis believes that many people think conservation involves a hocus-pocus approach to treating art, an impression created in part by newspaper articles that portray the profession as cloaked in mystery. "People don't realize that conservators undergo rigorous training, and that the profession has strict standards of practice much like medicine or engineering," he says.

According to James Beck '52 (below), he invites a vigorous debate; however, according to Albert Albano (right), Beck often seems unwilling to face the accused. He recently turned down Albano's invitation to address members of the American Institute for Conservation at their annual conference.



Courtesy Columbia University



"Conservators draw on all fields of the liberal arts," says Heather Galloway, an associate paintings conservator at the ICA in Oberlin, and Inglis' wife. "They must have scientific knowledge, manual skills, and an understanding of history. It takes about as long to become a conservator as it does to become an MD."

Part of the confusion stems from the fact that there is a difference between restorers and conservators—a difference conservators take great pains to distinguish. Restoration is a craft tradition with ancient roots; restorers often have no formal training and still use "secret formulas" that have been passed down through the generations. Conservation is a fairly young profession that evolved from, but quickly grew apart from, traditional restoration. Since the turn of the 20th century, and especially after World War II, the application of scientific methods and a more rigorous study of art history have steadily transformed conservation into an exacting profession with a strict code of ethics. Today's conservators are taught to appreciate and protect all the values of a painting or object—artistic, historic, religious, cultural, and other values. While conservators may occasionally restore a work of art—reconstruct its aesthetic appearance—they spend far more time protecting and preserving objects by controlling light, air quality, temperature, humidity, and exposure to insects or mold. To qualify as a fellow in associations such as the AIC or the International Institute for Conservation, conservators must have their applications rated by peers who scrutinize their portfolios and backgrounds.

Still, uncredentialed, hack conservators and untrained restorers exist. Although few are likely to work with a major museum or

collection, they can still find work with small-scale collectors, art dealers, and galleries. "Anyone can go to art school, hang up a sign, and advertise in the yellow pages as a restorer," says Ann Shaftel '69, a professional conservator in Canada with an international clientele of museums, governments, and private collectors. She also hosts a radio show about art conservation.

"This is what I say on the radio when callers ask whom they should hire to restore their family treasure: It's buyer beware. You have to ask for credentials and look at treatment records and portfolios from previous work."

To complicate matters further, there are vast philosophical differences among even the most highly trained and principled conservators, as well among the institutions that employ them. Some believe that the mark of time on a work of art—yellowed varnish on a painting or incrustations on a sculpture—are part of the work's legacy, a patina of age that demands respect. The Louvre is one of the museums that adheres to this school of thought. The most famous—and perhaps most controversial—product of its philosophy is the *Mona Lisa*, which is covered by many layers of varnish dating back to the 18th century.

"The Louvre has made the decision that old paintings should look old, even if they looked new when they were painted," says Inglis. "So even though the sky was a brilliant blue when da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*, when you look at it now, the sky looks coppersy because you're looking through a quarter-inch of centuries-old varnish. That look has nothing to do with da Vinci."

On the other hand, some conservators and museums believe

they should apply the best scientific practices of the profession to clean and restore a piece of art so that viewers can “read” more of the artist’s original vision. The National Gallery in London belongs to this school. It routinely removes yellowed varnish from its paintings and applies a clear coat, knowing the process may have to be repeated in another 25 years. One could look at two paintings by the same great master at the Louvre and the National Gallery and see two entirely different effects.

Even a cleaning—an innocuous-sounding word to the layperson—can be problematic. As varnish and dirt are removed, the surface of the artwork can be affected in subtle ways. These changes are irreversible, so conservators approach cleanings with great caution, usually after consultation with others within and outside their institution. But today’s conservators are often removing the earnest, yet wrongheaded, efforts of older generations of conservators—and undertake new efforts even while knowing that the best techniques today may seem equally crude in 30 years. It is this kind of repeat intervention that incenses James Beck.

“In the rhetoric of this conversation, [the conservators] say that the previous restoration was no good—now we’re going to make a really good one,” Beck says. “It’s like having a facelift. How many times can people go through one without their poor faces looking like an orange peel?”

And is it even possible to restore the artist’s original vision of the painting? Most conservators say no. “We constantly teach that you cannot turn back the clock,” says Joyce Stoner. “You cannot make the painting look as it did in the beginning, but you can remove dirt and grime.” Furthermore, conservators rarely know how the artist might have wanted future generations to handle the inevitable aging of their works—including the dirt and grime. A rare exception is Whistler: His collection of letters reveals that he himself took his five-year-old paintings to a restorer to replace yellowed varnish with a clean coat.

While conservators can’t travel through time to consult with da Vinci about the restoration of his *Adoration*, they can ask today’s artists how they want their work treated in the future. In a pioneering effort, Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, director of Harvard’s Center for the Technical Study of Modern Art and director of conservation at the Whitney Museum, oversees the Artist Documentation Project in which she interviews artists about their materials, techniques, and intentions for the future of their work. So will this prevent the conservation controversies of the future?



“CONSERVATORS DRAW ON ALL FIELDS OF THE LIBERAL ARTS,” SAYS HEATHER GALLOWAY, ASSOCIATE PAINTINGS CONSERVATOR AT THE ICA. “IT TAKES ABOUT AS LONG TO BECOME A CONSERVATOR AS IT DOES TO BECOME AN MD.”

“Input from the artist is fundamental, and our profession is working to expand artist interviews and make them generally available,” says Irene Konefahl ’71, associate conservator of paintings at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts. “Even so, major conservation decisions will remain complex because of the uniqueness of each work and its history; legitimate variations among well-trained, skilled conservators; and, for works privately held, issues of ownership. All this speaks for open dialogue, which is what conservators want.”

But what does the public want—those of us who believe that the world’s great art patrimony belongs to us rather than the Whitney, the Louvre, or the Uffizi? Many of us cut our aesthetic teeth on images taken from Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel; some of us still have those images on our t-shirts, watches, and mouse pads. When the Sistine cleaning was under way and began to effect a dramatic change in the look of the ceiling, a huge controversy brewed as to whether the project was damaging the frescoes and stripping away paint laid by Michelangelo. Although most of the world’s conservators and art scholars were later convinced that the restoration was a masterful job, others—including Beck—found it an assault. Many people loved the Sistine Chapel’s subtle hues and shadowy figures and were dismayed by the brilliant pink, turquoise, lapis blue, and tangerine now uncovered from beneath centuries of candle smoke and other gunk. Through the dramatic transformation, these people lost what they had loved—even if they might have gained a masterpiece more similar to what Michelangelo had created.

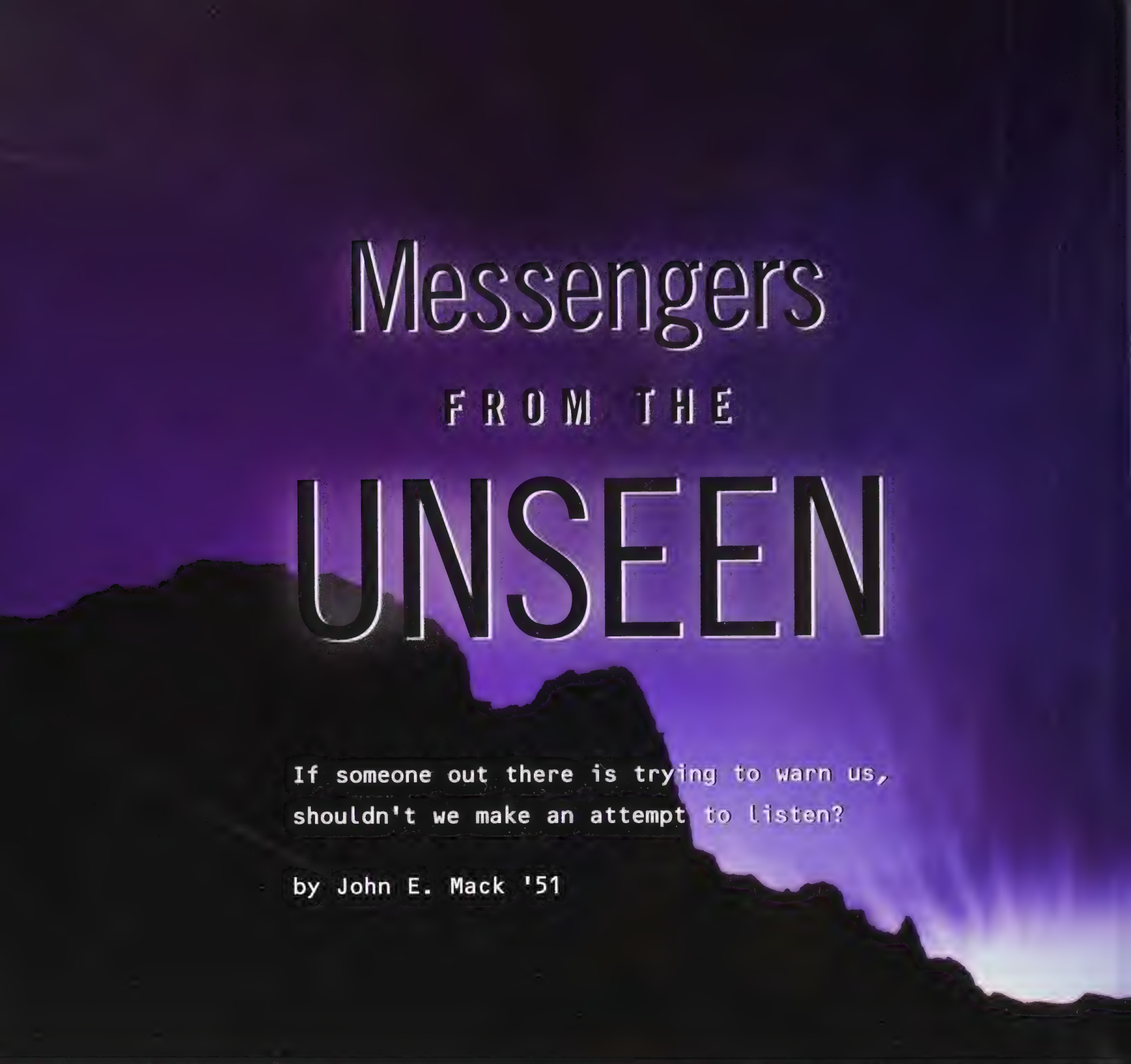
While consensus is clearly impossible, conversation—more of it—shouldn’t be. According to Beck, the goal of his campaign is to force open discussion of how these great works are treated so there can be vigorous debate. However, he often seems unwilling to face those who bear the brunt of his criticism. Albert Albano

invited Beck to address the American Institute for Conservation’s annual conference, but the invitation was spurned. Joyce Stoner says conservators have invited Beck to other conservation seminars and meetings, but he refuses to come. She herself attended an ArtWatch meeting but was shouted down whenever she tried to join the discussion.

“I get his newsletter,” says Stoner, with just a hint of frustration in her voice. “One of the things

I’ve seen him say is, ‘Sorry, members, I haven’t been in the papers lately.’ He seems to be more interested in publicity than in working with others in the best interest of art.”●

Kristin Ohlson is a freelance writer in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.



Messengers FROM THE UNSEEN

If someone out there is trying to warn us,
shouldn't we make an attempt to listen?

by John E. Mack '51

If it ever had been possible to head off trouble, it was now too late. The dean of the Harvard Medical School wanted to investigate "concerns that had been raised in the press and elsewhere" about my work on the phenomenon of alien abductions.

It was June 1, 1994, shortly after the publication of my book, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, when I arranged a meeting with James Adelstein, executive dean for academic programs of the Harvard Medical School faculty. Because of the controversial nature of the subject and my high profile in the media (articles about the book and me had appeared in national newspapers and magazines, and my publishers had scheduled



Photo courtesy of the Center for Psychology and Social Change



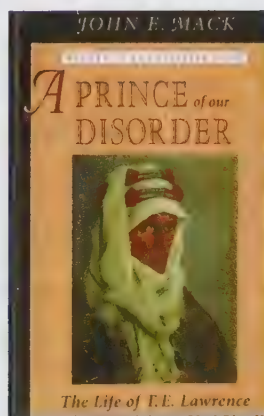
John Mack '51 was surprised by the storm of criticism that came with the 1994 publication of *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*. He has since come to understand his own naivete at the time as well as the "misty territory" his research and writing explores. He credits Oberlin for emphasizing open-mindedness and encouraging exploration in his education.

television appearances on shows like "Larry King Live," "Dateline," and "Oprah"), I thought I should discuss the situation with colleagues in the medical school's administration.

But Adelstein had instead appointed a committee to look into the matter, and thus began a 15-month ordeal involving lawyers, appearances before the group by myself and my patients, faculty witnesses, the submission of massive briefs, reports from the committee and my response, documents concerned with stan-

ards and ethics, letters of support, and sworn affidavits by 30 patients with whom I had worked. A year later, I received a letter from the dean; he had reviewed the committee's report and urged me not to "violate the high standards of clinical practice and clinical investigation" of the medical school. He left it up to me to determine what these were.

So what exactly was the controversy that had led leaders of the medical school to take an unprecedented action of investigating



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one of its own faculty members in this manner?

Adelstein, in the beginning, had offered a clue as to what was at stake. I would not have gotten into trouble, he said, if I had not said in my book that my findings required us to look at reality differently. Instead, I should have written that I had come upon a new psychiatric syndrome of unknown etiology.

I have since concluded that it was the challenge to our society's dominant worldview contained in my work that created such alarm. The idea that people are being visited by some sort of unknown life forms was (and remains) so far outside mainstream Western boundaries of reality that an exceptional response was required. The lawyer of Harvard's president remarked to one of my lawyers, "Well, what do you think it's like for the dean of the Harvard Medical School to see one of his professors on the "Oprah Winfrey" show saying that little green men are taking women and children into spaceships?"

True, I had appeared on "Oprah," but I doubt that the dean had watched the show, and I had said nothing about little green men. But the nature of the administration's anxiety was apparent.

Breaking with Tradition

MY DEVOUTLY SECULAR UPBRINGING in an intellectually skeptical New York, German-Jewish family had hardly prepared me for my future career course, although curiosity and exploration were encouraged. My parents were academicians. My father, a professor of English literature at New York's City College, read the Bible to my sister and me not as the word of God, but as a document of great literary importance for our culture and personal education.

I became a physician in order to be a psychiatrist, and my orthodox Freudian psychoanalytic training in Boston contained no critique of the culture of mechanism and scientific materialism that prevails in the American medical community. In this worldview, in the words of intellectual historian Richard Tarnas, "the soul of the world was voided from the entire universe and was appropriated essentially by the human being." Furthermore, realities that cannot be proven by established methods of science were considered of lesser significance.

In my Oberlin education, however, was something that encouraged openness and a willingness to consider distinctly unorthodox possibilities. The history and culture of the College is filled with challenges to the social, political, and intellectual status quo. It is

"ONCE WORD GOT AROUND THAT I WOULD NOT IMMEDIATELY TREAT EXPERIENCERS AS THOUGH THEY WERE MENTALLY ILL, PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUSES WHO THOUGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD ALIEN ENCOUNTERS SOUGHT ME OUT."

more than mere coincidence that the true pioneer in exploring the alien abduction phenomenon is Budd Hopkins '53, who first introduced me to the abductee population.

The traditional worldview of my upbringing began to erode when I undertook three years of training in the Grof holotropic breathwork method, a therapeutic form that brings about a non-ordinary state of consciousness through deep breathing and powerful, evocative music.

In this altered state, an expanded reality may open up for the breather. Universes of possibility open up, and the breather can identify with virtually any time, being, or place in the cosmos. He or she has access to the experience of intrauterine and birth-related events, and consciousness seems to separate from the physical body. The pantheons of mythic beings become possible objects of such identification.

This work softened me up for what was to follow. Without it I would have rejected the idea that many people of sound mind (more than one million in the U.S. alone, according to various polls, have conscious recollection of alien visitations) were encountering entities, although their characteristics may seem bizarre and the technologies involved poorly understood. Nevertheless, it was a huge stretch for me to take seriously the possibility that what the "abductees," or "experiencers" as I prefer to call them, were reporting was in some way real, not simply a product of their minds or imaginations.

By the time *Abduction* was published, I had been working closely for several years with more than 50 of these individuals in my psychiatry practice. I was convinced that there was no psychiatric explanation for what my patients were encountering. This I based on several factors: their fundamental soundness of mind, including appropriate skepticism; the close similarity of experiences among individuals who had not had contact with each other; the association with UFOs in the vicinity; physical elements; the absence of anything to gain by reporting these experiences (on the contrary, the experiencers must be very careful to whom they tell their stories lest they face doubt, ridicule, and isolation); and, finally, reports of experiences by children as young as 2 years old.

Once word got around that I would not immediately treat experiencers as though they were mentally ill, people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, and socioeconomic statuses who thought they might have had alien encounters sought me out. Before writing anything

UNSEEN

"THE METHODS OF SCIENCE—
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PRIMARILY IN THE MATERIAL
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UNSEEN REALMS."

publicly on this subject, I had spent hundreds of hours listening with wonderment to tales that were sometimes so similar to one another as to be virtually interchangeable. Sometimes the experiencers were astounded (I call this response "ontological shock") to discover that other people had had similar experiences, as they had hoped I could "cure" them of the problem or make it disappear with a pill or a trenchant psychiatric interpretation.

By now the basic outline of the abduction phenomenon is familiar to most people who read magazines or watch television, but this was not the case when I began this work in 1990. Even now the authentic details are rarely depicted accurately in the mass media. Essentially a person may be "visited" at night or during the day by humanoid beings of varying description, but most commonly they are portrayed as three-and-a-half to four feet tall with large heads and eyes and rather slight bodies. Reptilian, insect-like, light/luminous, or even actual humans have been described in conjunction with abduction experiences. Sometimes the individual describes being moved through space into a craft where various procedures occur. Often these involve a human/alien reproductive process, which leads in the creation of one or more hybrid beings with whom the experiencer is likely to feel a powerful emotional connection.

In addition to these physical elements, the experiencers receive information telepathically from the beings, either through their large black eyes or from images shown on television-like monitors. Most significantly this is concerned with the destruction of Earth's living systems, and, vistas of destruction, often of apocalyptic proportions, are forced upon the experiencers. One abductee has called this ecological education "alien boot camp."

Frequently, the experiencers, who may have had little awareness of the perilous state of the earth's environment, become passionately committed to the preservation of our planet. These experiences can be highly traumatic because they are so shattering of the person's reality. But if the experiencers are enabled to work through their terror, powerful spiritual awakenings and growth may occur.

The Quest for Proof

DURING THE EARLY YEARS of my work, I tried to establish that "abductions" really were taking place in a literal, physical sense. Sometimes there *were* reports of missing people, or of physical lesions or marks

left on experiencers' bodies after an encounter, or evidence that a type of "implant" was left under the skin, presumably so the beings can monitor their whereabouts.

This physical literalness was certainly what most interested the Harvard Medical School committee. But over the years my own emphasis has shifted. I have become convinced that something mysterious and real, not merely the product of the experiencer's mind or psychosocial influences, has been occurring. But larger questions arise as

to how we define reality, which is intimately tied to the methodology or way of knowing that is being pursued.

In the case of the abduction phenomenon, the physical findings, when present, are quite subtle. They are insufficiently robust to stand on their own or to measure up to mainstream science. The larger question for me has become how we are to consider reports of powerful experiences for which the physical evidence is meager and runs counter to the consensus view of what is possible. Forcing these accounts into a psychiatric box, or dismissing them out of hand, may lead to the loss of information that is immensely important for understanding ourselves and our universe.

Ordinarily, a psychiatrist is not primarily concerned with whether what patients are telling him about their lives is factual or true. Useful work can be done by exploring the meaning of what is reported without knowing how much of it should be taken literally. Methodology is a matter of concern within the mental health professions and is sometimes synonymous with good technique or being helpful to a patient or client. There is little at stake theoretically or philosophically.

But in the case of the alien abduction phenomenon, which challenges the fundamental ontological paradigm of our society, the stakes are much higher. If these experiences are true, then even my severest critics will acknowledge that we exist in a different cosmos than the one in which most of us, including myself, thought we were living. The consequences are not only scientific, but also affect every institution of our culture.

I have come to disagree with the medical school's investigation committee about the methods used to establish or refute the reality of the abduction phenomenon. The committee members emphasized the need for more psychological tests to see what might be wrong with these individuals. They suggested that patients consult with mainstream psychiatrists unfamiliar with the

phenomenon and that we explore other explanations, like sleep paralysis (experiencers are often unable to move during encounters, but are usually not asleep). Finally, the committee wanted a further quest for physical proof. Nevertheless, when the implications are so great, how we assess the reality of what a person reports in the absence of compelling physical evidence becomes a matter of immense importance.

When evaluating experiencers, I begin with the same clinical assessment I would undertake with any other patient. In particular, I assess if there is anything in the person's background or mental condition that could shed light on what has been reported. Hypnotic relaxation enables memories to come forth or helps the experiencer get in touch with emotions, but is not of much value in establishing what is factually true. I try and determine if a person has anything to gain by inventing such a story, or if he or she has been influenced by other individuals or the media.

Finally, I ask, are these patients persons of integrity who are not given generally to fantasy or distortion of reality? Talking with close friends and relatives is helpful in this regard. Is the feeling expressed by the experiencer appropriate to what is being reported? The sheer intensity of terror or other emotion that comes forth when encounter experiences are recalled can help determine if something momentous has in fact occurred.

Redefining Reality

SO ONCE IT IS established that an experiencer is of sound mind, has been functioning appropriately, and has coped with something so powerful, what then? We are now in misty territory. Standard psychological testing has shown little more than that the person has undergone some sort of disturbing experience. As a culture we have not progressed far in establishing what might be called a science of human experience. If we concede that experiencers have taken part in a real event, one that enters our three dimensional reality without becoming entirely part of it, questions arise such as: What kind of reality is this? Where do the beings come from? What is their relationship to the divine or the demonic? Are there entities or energy forms that manifest in our world but emanate from another dimension or universe?

If scientific and philosophical questions are put aside, atten-

"WHAT KIND OF REALITY IS THIS? WHERE DO THE BEINGS COME FROM? WHAT IS THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE DIVINE OR THE DEMONIC? ARE THERE ENTITIES OR ENERGY FORMS THAT MANIFEST IN OUR WORLD BUT EMANATE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION OR UNIVERSE?"

tion then shifts from the messenger to the message, from the experiencers' mental status to what they can teach us about ourselves and the world. The experiencers then become special witnesses, journeyers into mysterious realms, much like mythic heroes who venture into new lands and return to report what they have seen. And I become a witness to the witnesses, seeking when appropriate to give legitimacy to their accounts, much as religious officials do when they assess the truthfulness of those who report

the occurrence of miracles.

Behind the nervous efforts to discredit the encounter reality lies a deeper concern. This phenomenon does not stand alone, but is one anomaly among many. Others include near-death experiences, spirit manifestations, shamanic journeys, crop circles, unexplained animal mutilations, and apparitions of the Virgin Mary seen by tens of thousands of people. All of these challenge the limits of our understanding of reality and suggest the presence in the universe of other intelligences that may reach into our world under particular conditions.

Furthermore, there are a host of research findings from carefully conducted studies that further stretch our understanding of reality. These include evidence for clairvoyance, telepathic communication, remote viewing, psychokinesis, non-locality, the demonstrated efficacy of prayer and other examples of healing at a distance, and the participatory and cocreative nature of knowledge itself.

Taken together, these phenomena tell us many things about ourselves and the universe that challenge the dominant materialist paradigm. They reveal that our understanding of reality is extremely limited, the cosmos is more mysterious than we have imagined, there are other intelligences all about (some of which seem to be able to reach us), consciousness itself may be the primary creative force in the universe, and our knowledge of the properties of the physical world is far from complete. The emerging picture is a cosmos that is an interconnected harmonic web, vibrating with creativity and intelligence, in which separateness is an illusion.

The inadequacy of scientific materialism in guiding our understanding and lives has prompted Kyriacos Markides, a distinguished professor of sociology at the University of Maine, to state bluntly that "the secular assumptions about reality, dominant

during my university training [and, I suspect, of most of us], were in fact a grand illusion, a materialist superstition that had kept Western thought stranded and imprisoned for the last 300 years."

And how do the keepers of the dying, yet more traditional paradigm respond to these phenomena? Many raise the cry of "pseudoscience."

"The odds are stacked against science," laments Lawrence Kraus, an internationally known theoretical physicist at Case Western Reserve University, who seems to attribute all interest in the above phenomena to the susceptibility of Americans to be "regaled by stories about the limitless possibilities open to those with...a spirit of enterprise."

This is not just silly, but reflects a fundamental epistemological misunderstanding. The methods of science—hypothesis, testing, rigor, experimentation, control—are valuable and essential for studying phenomena that reside primarily in the material world. But they may be inadequate for exploring matters that straddle the visible and the unseen realms. They surely are insufficient for learning about realities beyond the manifest. Here we must rely more upon experience, intuition, non-ordinary states of consciousness, and holistic or heart knowing, thoughtfully and rigorously applied.

The failure of the human species, especially in the West and in other parts of the world influenced by Western science and technology, to appreciate the delicate, interconnected nature of all being, is at the root of the havoc we are wreaking upon ourselves and most of the earth's life forms. As Oberlin Board of Trustees Chair Thomas Klutznick wrote in *OAM* last year, we are witnessing "the first mass dying that is being driven by human activity." It should not be surprising that alien beings and the Blessed Virgin have taken on the role of messengers from the unseen.

It is apparent that what we are doing to the earth is a crime of cosmic proportions. No one or nothing intervenes or stops us directly, for that does not seem to be spirit's way. But perhaps we are being helped to wake up and to remember what some native and traditional peoples have never forgotten: that life is fragile and sacred and that we must learn to live in harmony with all the other species of the earth.

So, for me, a journey that began with the investigation of a strange anomaly has led to a greater appreciation of the gift of being and a deeper commitment to helping to preserve the life of the planet and its infinite possibilities. ●



A Pulitzer Prize-winning author and professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School, John E. Mack, M.D., '51, has spent the past 40 years exploring the question of how our perception of ourselves shapes our perception of the world around us.

The author or co-author of 10 books and over 150 scholarly articles, Mack's 1977 biography of T.E. Lawrence, *A Prince of Our Disorder*, won him the Pulitzer. His unconventional ideas about the existence and purpose of visitations from unknown life forms, brought him criticism and notoriety upon publication in 1994 of *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens* — a title which has since gone out of print. His most recent book, *Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters*, was published in 1999.

Earlier in his career, in 1969 Mack founded the Department of Psychiatry at Cambridge Hospital and in 1983 he co-founded the Center for Psychology and Social Change with Robert Jay Lifton, M.D., and colleagues. In 1992, Mack was co-chair of the Abduction Study Conference, a landmark gathering of scientists at MIT to discuss alien encounters and in 1993, he founded the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) to explore varieties of anomalous experience.

Mack is a graduate of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute and is board certified in child and adult psychoanalysis with over 40 years of clinical psychiatric education and experience. He continues to teach.

John Mack '51 spoke at Oberlin College in 2001 on the event of his 50th class reunion. This article expands upon his presentation. (Photo courtesy of the Center for Psychology and Social Change.)



C. MACACHOWS

explaining colombia

'SOLO VIVIMOS EN PAZ CUANDO
ESTAMOS PELEANDO' (WE'RE ONLY
AT PEACE WHEN WE'RE FIGHTING.
As heard on Medellin radio.)

story by **Frank Bajak '79** / illustration by Cecilia Malachowska / photos by Ariana Cubillos

My days are numbered," Jesus Maria Valle Jaramillo said with a half-smile, a look of contented resignation on his square mestizo face.

We sat across a thick wooden conference table in his spartan third-floor law office in downtown Medellin, a Colombian city known to the world mostly for drug gangs and a seeming innate proclivity toward violence.

Through the open window we heard the bustle of midday commerce on the street below. A train glided by two blocks away on Medellin's modern, elevated metro.

"I've had a good life," Valle intoned gently, smiling with the ease of a man whose soul was at peace. "Fifty years and a few on top of that."

The head of a Medellin human rights group whose two previous leaders had been gunned down in the 1980s, Valle was one of those rare Colombians unafraid to publicly speak their minds. Valle had accused army generals and powerful politicians—including the provincial governor at the time, Álvaro Uribe Velez—of colluding with right-wing death squads in a murderous campaign against civilians deemed sympathetic to leftist rebels in towns north of the city, including Ituango, where Valle had been a councilman.

"In the past three years, during the rule of Dr. Álvaro Uribe, the rivers have been so bathed in blood that we don't know how many dead there are in the country," the lawyer said.

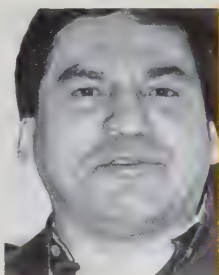
Valle did not offer any evidence implicating Uribe. But enough cases of complicity by security forces in death squad activity had come to light, including in investigations that I, as Associated Press bureau chief for Colombia, had conducted or overseen, that his compassionate rhetoric did not stir incredulity. At the time, Uribe was an outspoken supporter of citizen self-defense units, several of which were involved in murderous excess and collusion with right-wing paramilitary forces. Uribe's office helped coordinate citizen militia activities in Antioquia state, at once the country's most economically productive and most turbulent.

That was five years ago. Uribe is now Colombia's president, inaugurated Aug. 7, 2002, after being elected on a promise to vigorously prosecute the war against leftist rebels. He seeks, for one, to double the army's combat troops to 100,000, with U.S. help.

Colombia is now the No. 3 beneficiary of U.S. military aid behind Israel and Egypt and Congress has now unshackled direct support for its armed forces from stipulations that had required recipient units to be explicitly involved in anti-narcotic efforts.

When I met Valle in October 1997, I was a trustworthy foreigner referred by a mutual acquaintance. It was our first encounter, and Valle was providing me with the docket on members of an urban militia, including ex-cops, accused of systematically murdering petty criminals and drug addicts.

Before we got down to business, Valle had me switch off my tape recorder and foretold his own violent death. Sure enough, five months later, two men and a woman would march up the



JESUS MARIA VALLE JARAMILLO LEFT NO WIFE OR CHILDREN. HE'D DECIDED YEARS BEFORE NOT TO MARRY; SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE ANYONE ANGUISH WHEN HIS DAY CAME.

stairs to Valle's office, tie up and gag a colleague and Valle's sister, who served as his secretary, in a cramped anteroom.

Valle accepted death without a struggle. The assassins forced the lawyer to his knees and shot him in the head.

Jesus Maria Valle Jaramillo left no wife or children. He'd decided years before not to marry; said he didn't want to cause anyone anguish when his day came.

It might seem surreal, this portent of imminent death—off the pages of a novel by Valle's compatriot Gabriel Garcia Marquez. But this sort of thing happens all the time in Colombia, where death doesn't lurk in shadows. It shouts in your face, permeates your corpuscles.

It has happened again and again in forsaken villages with names like Mapiripan, Puerto Alvira, or Chengue, typically meriting only brief mention on the inside pages of U.S. newspapers. The story is so repetitive as to seem banal: authorities ignore warnings of imminent massacres, then they occur.

Garcia Marquez once told me that his fiction, so steeped in brutality, superstition, and febrile hallucination, is not fantasy's child. It is grounded in the sinews of fact, in the history of a chaotic land thin on tolerance where violence is the hardest cur-



Left: A Bogota street scene. Pictured above: Manuel Marulanda (left) helped organize the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in 1964 and in the years since has managed to triple its size to at least 15,000 fighters. Elected in 1998 on a peace platform, former President Andres Pastrana (right) lacked the guile and maybe the guts to deliver on his campaign promise.

rency, where living by one's convictions tends to invite death. Law governs little in Colombia, passion more. The social contract pales. Informal compacts sealed with a handshake prevail. Colombia is a land of constantly shifting regional alliances and tropical Machiavellians. As I traveled the country for more than four years at the close of the 20th century, meeting its saints and scoundrels, innocents and cheats, I shed layers of inbred North American optimism, naivete if you like.

I learned the Colombian creed: Scruples are a liability. Best to reserve your trust. The late cocaine kingpin Pablo Escobar, I was told, considered that humanity boils down to two subspecies: "el vivo y el bobo"—the con artist and the dimwit. If you're not taking advantage, you're being had.

Colombia is a geophysical masterwork and biodiversity gem that remains the global leader in the production and export of processed cocaine. It is also the hemisphere's number-one source of counterfeit U.S. dollars.

But those traits only hint at a deeper malaise.

Ah, many Colombians will tell you, this nation is unluckily cursed by geography, situated as it is where South America funnels into the Panamanian isthmus, a centuries-old smugglers' crossroads. If it's not outbound cocaine and heroin, it's inbound AK-47s, contraband Marlboros, and Johnny Walker Red.

Colombia's fractured geography has always made it a challenge to govern. Yet the essence of the malady is wholly sprung from the species, Colombian intellectuals will tell you. It arises from nearly two centuries of a history in which any serious chal-

lenge to the commercial and political axes of power is routinely answered with a corporeal piercing of lead.

Just about any time a popular leader comes along who might redeem Colombian democracy, somebody who had something to lose was willing to kill for it. Luis Carlos Galan most famously paid with his life in a 1989 shower of bullets after challenging the Medellin cocaine cartel.

In Valle I met a man whose courage made me wonder: Could I possibly have the guts to knowingly write my own death warrant? "One has to keep going and find his way out of the tunnel. It's the only way," Valle answered when I asked how he could so deliberately curtail his own mortality.

And that was Colombia for me: A nation that couldn't seem to live with itself: a dark labyrinth poisoned with peril and deception, yet lit occasionally by wisps of kindness, courage, and clarity.

Disentangling a Nation's Psyche

MY EDUCATION INTO COLOMBIAN DYSFUNCTION began in earnest a few months earlier at Bogota's elite Universidad de los Andes. Augusto Perez Gomez, a sociologist, sat me down in a cool, wood-paneled classroom under a fragrant stand of eucalyptus.

I wanted to understand how Colombia had become the world's kidnapping mecca. With more than 3,000 reported cases annually since the early 1990s, the country was a bazaar of human chattel. It starts with a society that at least superficially is polite and warm, explained Perez, who had just completed a study of kidnapper psychology drawing from interviews with a

diverse sampling of people imprisoned for the crime.

"Here we're all soul mates with all the world. But when someone truly needs us we are not friends, we don't know each other and don't care what happens to anyone else," said Perez.

The felonious have succeeded in straitjacketing Colombian life, said Perez. Criminal imaginations have bred such pervasive lawlessness that it was only natural that outlaws with political agendas would wholly embrace kidnapping and extortion. What better way to generate income if you're unable to use politics as a route to personal enrichment, they reasoned.

Colombia's two dominant leftist armies, rooted in the defense of disenfranchised peasants in the 1950s, had lost by the end of the 20th century the luster long associated with Latin American guerrillas as heroic fighters for social justice in the tradition of Augusto Sandino or Che Guevara.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, already had little mass appeal when then-U.S. drug czar Barry McCaffrey branded its fighters "narcoguerrillas" in 1997. It wasn't the FARC's deepening involvement in the cocaine trade that troubled most Colombians. It was no secret that people of every political stripe were getting a piece of that action: right-wing paramilitaries, members of Congress, even the president elected in 1994, Ernesto Samper, who managed to avoid impeachment though his campaign took in \$6 million from the Cali drug cartel.

The FARC and the second most powerful leftist rebel band, the National Liberation Army, or ELN, forfeited public sympathy by institutionalizing kidnapping. Both do it mostly for revenue, patiently releasing victims over months after extracting the optimal amount of cash.

Up near the Caribbean in the fertile southern foothills of the world's highest coastal mountain range is Valledupar, a regional capital known for its jaunty, accordion-driven Vallenato music. The people are earthy, generous, quick to laugh. That might seem astounding, considering that they've been afflicted for the better part of two decades by a plague of almost biblical proportions.

On a wan Valledupar sidestreet I find the address, get buzzed in at a wrought-iron gate, and walk through a dusty courtyard and up two flights of stairs badly in need of paint.

The door opens a crack, it's chain-bolted, and a quavering man in his 20s answers. Rafael Lacouture asks for my identification and studies my passport and press card without putting down his .38-caliber revolver.

It's April 1997 and I've come to see Rafael's mother, Beatrice. Beatrice Lacouture's life is in ruins. Her family has been plagued by 43 kidnappings. Most of the victims are ranchers, like her husband of 35 years, Fabio. Guerrillas surprised Fabio on the family ranch outside Valledupar in March 1993. Workers found him decomposing in the afternoon sun in the cab of his pickup, a bullet in his head, his throat slit.

The rancher had been robbed of the cash in his pocket,

equipment in his truck, his shotgun, some cattle.

"What happens here is that the guerrilla pursues someone they have in mind," says Beatrice. "It's like the tiger hunting its prey until the quarry is caught. I don't know how the devil they do it, but it's with frightening cleverness and agility."

For anyone with any amount of wealth, Valledupar has become an odd sort of prison. It's only safe to come and go by plane. Land prices are severely depressed, ranching in ruins, the region's once rich cotton crop decimated.

When I was there, a new style of kidnapping had come into vogue on the main highways linking Bogota with the Caribbean coast. Rebels stopped four to five cars at a time, grabbed one occupant from each and sent everybody else for the ransom. The police and army, undermanned and poorly equipped, could only occasionally frustrate the rebels.

In the years since, it's only gotten worse. And extortion, once the nearly exclusive plague of ranchers, gold and silver miners and oil roughnecks, has infected Bogota. One restaurateur I knew was paying the FARC about \$30,000 a year.

ON THE STATE'S HIGHWAYS - INCLUDING THE MAIN ROAD CONNECTING BOGOTA WITH THE CARIBBEAN COAST - A NEW STYLE OF KIDNAPPING HAD RECENTLY COME INTO VOGUE: REBELS STOPPED FOUR TO FIVE CARS AT A TIME...

BUT, THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN COLOMBIA, WHERE DEATH DOESN'T LURK IN SHADOWS. IT SHOUTS IN YOUR FACE, PERMEATES YOUR CORPUSCLES.

A cat drags a woman's head through a graveyard. A splayed body, flesh stretched in the shape of Colombia, is held taut by pegs like a tanned hide.

Hysterical women and children bend over corpses and point accusingly at grim-faced helmeted soldiers. Human mutilation is practiced in imaginative variation.

This is Colombia's modern era on canvas, in sculptures and multimedia at Bogota's Museum of Modern Art in a show *Art and Violence in Colombia since 1948* — in which such unflinching creators as Debora Arango and Alejandro Obregon etch indelible images in our psyches.

My wife and I saw it in 1999, about the time we began to seriously discuss leaving the country a year earlier than planned. We had three teenagers and were becoming more concerned for their safety, though no ill had befallen us.

I'd never had such a museum experience. In front of some canvasses, people flinched. Hardly anyone even whispered.

It was only a few blocks away, on April 9, 1948, that Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, a charismatic Liberal Party populist widely expected to be elected the next president, was shot and killed on the sidewalk, touching off a frenzy of violence that degenerated into a decade of political bloodletting.

What became known as La Violencia would claim some 200,000 lives by conservative estimates.



As provincial governor, Álvaro Uribe Velez was an outspoken supporter of citizen self-defense units. That was five years ago. Uribe is now Colombia's president.

No sooner had Gaitan been declared dead than blocks of downtown Bogota were gutted and hundreds killed. In the countryside, one recorded incident would become iconographic of Colombian barbarity: incensed Gaitan supporters decapitated some prominent members of the rival Conservative Party and played soccer with the men's heads in a town plaza.

The following year, a man born Pedro Antonio Marin took up arms in self-defense against the wholesale slaughter by Conservative henchmen of supporters of the rival peasant-backed Liberals who dominated his coffee-growing region.

Marin would later take the name of a labor leader whom government agents beat to death — Manuel Marulanda — and build the FARC, which he cofounded in 1964, from a scraggly hit-and-run communist band into a potent force that by the mid-1990s was overrunning government military outposts.

A taciturn farmer's son with a sixth-grade education, Marulanda was a self-taught master military strategist. Cloistered in the jungle for a half century, he had missed the technological revolution but earned the nickname "Tirofijo," or Sureshot, for his skills with a rifle.

As Latin America's other major rebel movements made peace or met with defeat, Marulanda managed to triple the FARC's size to at least 15,000 fighters and school a new generation of commanders.

They were good students. The FARC now controls perhaps 40 percent of the Colombian countryside. It is a peasant army, its rank-and-file coming almost exclusively from dirt-poor campesino families.

I met a number of FARC leaders after Andres Pastrana, elected president in 1998 on a peace platform, ceded a Switzerland-sized swath of southern Colombia as a free zone, to the insurgency as a condition for beginning talks to end a conflict that over the years has alternately simmered and flared.

The 72-year-old Marulanda refused to grant interviews to mainstream international journalists. He considered us imperialist agents or worse. But we did get to know his senior commanders.

Comandante Ivan Marquez joined the FARC in the 1980s because leftist students in Medellin like himself were being hunted down by death squads. He talked a conciliatory line. Nothing wrong with a market economy as long as the oligarchs allowed some redistribution of wealth in the countryside. There'd been talk of agrarian reform in Colombia for decades but never any action.

One senior cadre emblematic of the FARC's grievances was Jairo Martinez, who said his father and three brothers were all killed the same day during La Violencia by a Conservative gang. Rendered a refugee, he didn't learn to read until he was 16.

Jairo would convene townspeople in San Vicente del Caguan, the biggest municipality in the rebel free zone, for bland, doctrinaire lectures. The townspeople dutifully attended, out of fear. The FARC was taxing these people, pressing many into road improvement projects, forcibly recruiting their children. It even ran their priest out of town.

The FARC heralded its mini-state as a "laboratory for peace." But instead of building health clinics and schools and helping farmers, the rebels exploited the free zone for training, for R&R

for troops who kept up attacks outside the enclave — and for cocaine production.

These were no Sandinistas. And they were nothing like the quixotic idealists of Colombia's M-19 rebel movement, whose pyrrhic 1985 takeover of Bogota's Palace of Justice sealed their fate.

Two decades ago, the FARC might have mustered the intellect to create rather than simply destroy. Thousands of fighters demobilized and created a political party, La Union Patriotica. But the party was decimated, some 3,000 members assassinated.

Every rebel leader I spoke with would look at me as if at an ignorant lunatic when I asked if they would lay down their arms as part of a peace agreement.

"The FARC will never give up their weapons. That will take a generation," Álvaro Leyva told me. A Bogotano of aristocratic lineage, Leyva had been the key facilitator in government-rebel peace contacts.

Whatever goodwill existed in its leadership, the FARC is no centrally directed monolith, and its ranks are peppered with resentment, bellicosity, and materialistic opportunists.

In March 1999, a regional front killed three American activists who had been helping indigenous people organize against oil drilling by Occidental Petroleum. Even during peace talks, the FARC refused to halt kidnappings. And while some fronts eschewed direct involvement in the drug trade, others were deep into cocaine production and distribution — in Colombia if not also abroad.

President Pastrana had lost patience and dissolved the free zone. The genial, patrician former TV anchorman had lacked the guile and maybe the guts to deliver on his single-issue platform, and Colombia had only become more lawless.

When my family and I left in July 2000 we could no longer trust the roads. Rather than ship our household goods by land to a Caribbean port we flew them out of Bogota.

Uribe's Rise to the Presidency

I MET ÁLVARO URIBE IN NOVEMBER 1996 in his Medellin office. The local anti-kidnapping cops had arrested a German agent at Medellin's airport as he attempted to spirit a retired German executive's wife out of the country. The agent had allegedly brokered a ransom of more than \$1.2 million with ELN rebels — gaining himself a hefty commission.

Uribe wanted to make an example of this agent. His outrage was understandable. Leftist rebels had killed Uribe's father during a 1983 kidnap attempt. Giving the rebels no quarter, Uribe was also hoping to discourage the lucrative enterprise of abducting foreigners.

The morning I visited Uribe, police had learned of an assassination plot against his wife and rerouted her motorcade, I was told. During the 2002 presidential campaign, Uribe survived unscathed a bombing that killed three people and battered his armored car.

Detractors say Uribe made a Faustian deal with right-wing paramilitaries while governor of Antioquia. And journalists have noted

that Uribe's father was friends with the late Don Fabio Ochoa, a fellow show-horse breeder and father to a clutch of Medellin cartel cocaine traffickers.

But no one has produced any evidence directly linking Uribe either to right-wing paramilitary atrocities or drug trafficking. And no one has suggested Uribe had anything to do with the assassination of Jesus Valle, for which two paramilitaries were convicted in absentia last year.

Uribe's election in May was a clear sign of desperation among Colombians. The upper classes may even be willing to countenance a dirty war to rid themselves of the rebels. Colombia's landowner-backed paramilitaries have meanwhile expanded their radius of action, with a wink and a nod from the military, while the vast majority of arrest warrants for paramilitaries issued by the Attorney General's office languish without action, according to Human Rights Watch.

The number of paramilitaries has also climbed to at least 11,000 fighters from just a few thousand in 1996 — their units increasingly engaging rebels in direct combat.

Uribe wants to bring back citizens' militias, which would make life even more impossible for anyone in rural Colombia who has strived to maintain neutrality. Add the U.S. government's lifting of restrictions on military assistance and you're priming the bone-dry tinder of conflagration.

What Colombia needs most is a strengthened, more effective legal system so prosecutors, judicial investigators, and journalists are no longer hunted down and killed for challenging regional powerbrokers.

Even if Uribe can successfully pull off an eventual peace through brinkmanship, can he avoid a blood orgy of excess, especially with a judicial apparatus that Human Rights Watch says has been dulled and dispirited?

Uribe, 50, is a serious, some say humorless, man who impressed Colombians on election night with his dour, non-celebratory mood.

While studying in the early 1990s at Harvard's Kennedy School of

Government he was deeply influenced, he told me, by JFK's famed "City Upon a Hill" speech.

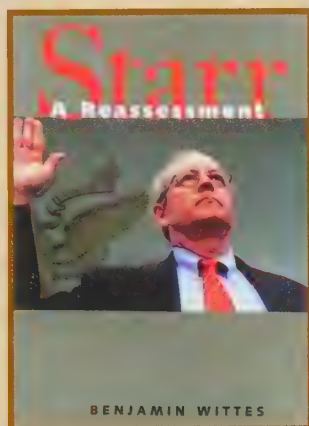
Elected officials must be ready for the judgment of history, Uribe paraphrased. Were we truly men of courage, determination, and integrity? Compromised by no private aim or obligation but devoted solely to the public good?

It may just have been affectation, but in his office six years ago Uribe sounded passionate about the sacred trust that Kennedy said we invest in those who govern.

I sincerely wish Uribe the best trying to serve those ideals. ●

Frank Bajak ('79) has lived in Poland, Germany, and Colombia during more than two decades as a journalist. Currently based in New York, he is technology editor for *The Associated Press*.

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Starr: A Reassessment

By BENJAMIN WITTES '91
Yale University Press, 2002

Reviewed by TED GEST '68

OBERLINIANS PLAYED A VARIETY OF ROLES, most unwillingly, in Kenneth Starr's investigation that led to the impeachment of Bill Clinton. Bob Weiner '69, then a spokesman for the White House drug policy office, was subpoenaed for urging a probe of Linda Tripp; the bookstore founded by William Kramer '68 was subpoenaed for Monica Lewinsky's purchase records; Linda Gustitus '69 helped draft the independent counsel law as an aide to Michigan Sen. Carl Levin.

Now Benjamin Wittes '91 has looked back on the whole affair and reached a critical judgment, but not for the reasons many political analysts have offered. The basic problem with Starr's long-winded and expensive investigation, which captivated the nation between 1994 and Clinton's last days in office, was not that Starr was a Republican or was fixated on the president's sex life, Wittes concludes. Rather, he argues that the independent prosecutor drastically misread his own mandate. Wittes, who writes editorials on legal issues for the *Washington Post*, says that Starr should have been acting like a traditional prosecutor who decides if there is sufficient evidence to convince a jury that a crime has been committed. Instead, he ran a truth squad-type inquiry aimed at documenting Clinton's misdeeds for Congress.

Wittes' book goes far beyond the musings of an editorial writer. He persuaded Starr to sit for 10 hours of interviews—his attempt to get at the truth of what motivated Starr. The result is a readable, albeit somewhat legalistic, analysis of Starr's *modus operandi*. The Wittes' thesis had received relatively little attention from journalists and other book authors, who have been caught up in the scandal's vivid personalities.

In Wittes' view, Starr's investigation, "despite its hopeless grandiosity, somehow managed not to address rigorously the core question that lay at its heart: whether or not Bill Clinton should be prosecuted." More than two years after the investigation began, Starr's successor decided to convene another grand jury, eventually not prosecuting the departing president.

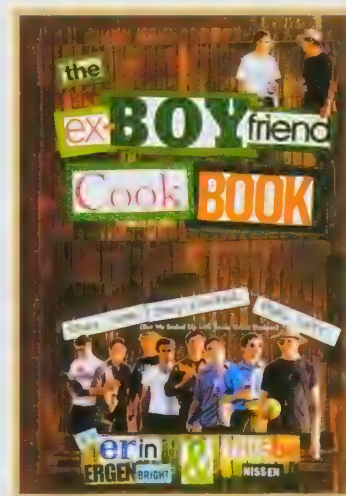
Wittes does not escape criticism himself. One reviewer complained that the author took at face value Starr's truth-commission explanation, which was largely offered after the fact as a defense of an investigation that seemed out of control. Starr wrote a response to "fair-minded critic" Wittes in the magazine *Legal Affairs*, arguing that Congress "saw fit to define an extraordinary role for each [independent] counsel as a provider of information to the public." If lawmakers revive the special prosecutor law, Wittes maintains, "the more general truth-seeking function must devolve to Congress, to inspectors general, to historians, and to the press." The book is worthwhile reading for those concerned about how the integrity of government can be maintained when a political administration is called on to investigate itself.

Ted Gest, a former editor at U.S. News and World Report, heads the program on crime policy and the news media at the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology at the University of Pennsylvania.

The First Year of Hepatitis B: An Essential Guide for the Newly Diagnosed

By WILLIAM FINLEY GREEN '85
Marlowe & Company, 2002

The hepatitis B virus causes an estimated 1 million deaths each year. Green, who has lived with hepatitis B for almost 25 years and has become an expert on the condition, guides those newly diagnosed through the first year of treatment, including diet, exercise, social concerns, and emotional issues. This is an excellent first-person account of HBV that leaves out the confusing jargon of in-depth medical texts.



The Ex-Boyfriend Cookbook: They Came, They Cooked, They Left (But We Ended Up with Some Great Recipes)

By ERIN ERGENBRIGHT AND
THISBE NISSEN '94
Harper Collins, 2002

In this creative work, the authors supplement recipes received from ex-boyfriends with colorful collages and stories about failed relationships. Recipes are divided into seven categories: sweet things, sort of fluffy things, savory things, spicy things, slippery things, and substantial things. The amusing and touching stories examine the ups and downs of love and place the recipes within the context of the relationships. Oberlin's infamous Banana House is mentioned in a story accompanying the recipe for The Mask Bandit's Banana Chocolate Chip Cake.

The Nature of Design: Ecology, Culture, and Human Intention

By DAVID W. ORR

Oxford University Press, 2002

Orr combines theory, practicality, and action in the discussion of starting an ecological design revolution that will change how we provide food, shelter, energy, materials, and livelihood and how we deal with waste. Ecological design is an emerging field with an aim to recalibrate what humans do in the world with how the world works as a biophysical system. Design in this sense is a large concept that has as much to do with politics and ethics as with buildings and technology. The book describes the scope of design and compares it to the Enlightenment of the 18th century. Later chapters describe barriers to a design revolution and the critical role educational institutions might play in fostering design intelligence. The book ends on themes of clarity, wildness, and the rights of children. Orr is the director and professor of environmental studies at Oberlin.

Cultural and Critical Perspectives on Human Development

EDITED BY MARTIN J. PACKER AND

MARK B. TAPPAN '79

State University of New York Press, 2001

This title brings to light exciting new studies of child and adolescent development, providing insights from critical pedagogy, cultural psychology, feminism, postmodernism, critical theory, and semiotics, offering new perspectives into the experiences of children, adolescents, and adults. Tappan is associate professor and chair of the Education and Human Development Program at Colby College.

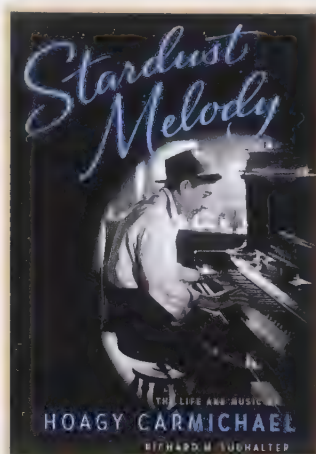
Making the Manifesto: The Birth of Religious Humanism

By WILLIAM F. SCHULZ '71

Skinner House Books, 2002

This book tells the story of religious humanism, a movement that sought to construct a religion without God and put its faith in humanity rather than divinity. Rooted in Francis Bacon, Rene Descartes, and the

teachings of the philosophers, this movement led to the signing the Humanist Manifesto of 1933. This text revives interest in this historic document, which not only broke theological ground, but also challenged the religious thinking of its day. Schulz is the executive director of Amnesty International USA and former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association.



Stardust Melody: The Life and Music of Hoagy Carmichael

By RICHARD M. SUDHALTER '60

Oxford University Press, 2002

For millions, Hoagy Carmichael remains the enduring musical voice of heartland America, the beloved counterpoint to the urban sensibility of Cole Porter and George Gershwin. Sudhalter, a widely respected jazz trumpeter and noted critic, broadcaster, and Grammy-winning historian, has penned the first book-length biography of this American icon that explores Carmichael's career and music. *Stardust Melody* was selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

Sunstroke: Selected Stories of Ivan Bunin

TRANSLATED BY GRAHAM HETTLINGER '88

Ivan R. Dee, Inc., 2002

Hettlinger's translation and introduction of these 25 short stories introduce English-speaking audiences to one of the greatest and most neglected Russian writers of the 20th century, Ivan Bunin. Regarded by his contemporaries as the gifted successor to Tolstoy and Chekhov and a master of the Russian letters, Bunin was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1933. This edition features stories that depict seduction, betrayal, and death.

Looking for Work, Searching for Workers: American Labor Markets During Industrialization

By JOSHUA L. ROSENBLOOM '81

Cambridge University Press, 2002

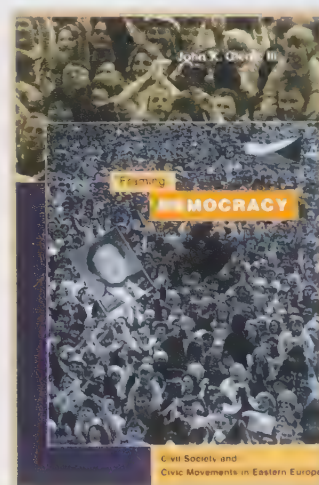
This text examines the imbalances of the job market produced by the American industrialization and describes how employers and job seekers responded to the pressures of supply and demand for labor across the country. Rosenbloom is professor of economics at the University of Kansas and research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Around Philadelphia with Kids: 68 Great Things to do Together

By ANDREA LEHMAN '83

Fodor's Travel Publications, 2001

From the tried-and-true Liberty Bell to the American Helicopter Museum, this cheerful guide features 68 terrific things to do around Philadelphia with a child in tow. Suggestions are handpicked by parents, and the book includes all of the planning details (addresses, phone numbers, admission prices, and age-appropriateness). Lehman has edited eight other books in Fodor's "Around the City" series.



Framing Democracy: Civil Society and Civic Movements in Eastern Europe

By JOHN K. GLENN III '76

Stanford University Press, 2001

At the close of the 20th century, democracy appeared to have overcome the Cold War partition of the world. This book offers a critique and reformulation of existing theories of

Bookshelf *continued*

democratization, as well as of earlier understandings of the fall of communism. Glenn is the executive director of the Council for European Studies and a Visiting Scholar at New York University.



Dress Codes: Of Three Girlhoods—My Mother's, My Father's, and Mine

BY NOELLE HOWEY '94

Picador USA/ St. Martin's Press, 2002

Howey examines three journeys into girlhood, then womanhood, as experienced by a transgendered father, a dutiful mother, and their daughter. Candid, funny writing gives the memoir the feel of fiction, as Howey challenges conventional beliefs about what constitutes gender and a "normal" family with remarkable sensitivity. She is the co-editor of *Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing Up with Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Parents*.

Self-Transformation of the Forgotten Four-Fifths

EDITED BY ROBERT G. DYCK '52 AND MATJAZ MULEJ

Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, 1998

This title presents a key strategy of entrepreneurship and innovation at the local level, leading to self-transformation and a reduction of poverty. A review of the book was recently presented by the Russian economist Vladimir Pozdniakov at the Vienna congress of the EMCSR. Dyck is a professor of urban affairs and planning at the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech

Caliban and Other Tales

BY ROBERT DEVEREAUX '69

Dorchester Publishing Co., 2002

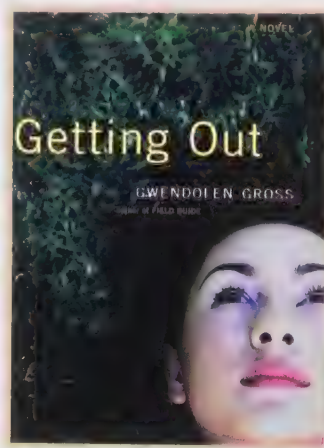
Devereaux, considered by many a master of the horror novel, turns his talents toward short stories that are as amusing, gut-churning, and otherwise out-there. The included novella, "Caliban," deals with the struggle for personal power and revenge, clouded by dark uncertainty. Devereaux is the author of two earlier novels, *Deadweight* and *Walking Wounded*.

Predicaments

BY WILLIAM AARNES '69

Ninety-Six Press, 2001

Aarnes continues to venture beyond the verse autobiography he began in his 1991 collection, *Learning to Dance*. His newest book is convincing both in its portrayals of everyday American life and in its meta-poetic reflections. The author teaches at Furman University.



Getting Out

BY GWENDOLEN GROSS '89

Henry Holt and Company, 2002

Gross has created an engaging heroine, Hannah Blue, and employed her trademark unpretentious wisdom and wry, insightful humor. Joining an Adventurer's Club, Hannah hopes for temporary respite from everyday pressures. When her father's latest illness turns out to be real, she finds herself addicted to the escape she discovers outside until she realizes that the people she keeps leaving may not always wait for her to come back. Gross is the author of *Field Guide*.

Cystic Fibrosis in the 20th Century: People, Events and Progress

BY CARL DOERSHUK, M.D. '52

AM Publishing, Ltd., 2001

This book is the first to describe the history of the dramatic progress in cystic fibrosis care and research since its description in 1938. Highlighted are the personal accounts of 27 individuals, including those who formed and led the CF Foundation, physicians, researchers who led the care and research efforts, and CF adults who provide current leadership. It will be of interest to those whose lives have been impacted by cystic fibrosis, caretakers and researchers, and those interested in medical history and the development of health and public policy issues. Doershuk is emeritus professor of pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and served as director of the Cystic Fibrosis Center.

Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding

EDITED BY DAVID R. SMOCK '58

United States Institute of Peace, 2002

This book submits the views of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish contributors who believe that religion is better at fostering peace than at fueling war. It demonstrates that when organized creatively, interfaith dialogue can nurture deep engagement at all levels of the religious hierarchy, including the community level. Smock, director of the Religion and Peacemaking Initiative at the United States Institute of Peace, is the author and editor of several books.

Precipitations: Contemporary American Poetry as Occult Practice

BY DEVIN JOHNSTON '92

Wesleyan University Press, 2002

Johnston traces the influence of the occult on contemporary American poetry while positioning it within the larger tradition of Romanticism. A good read for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the role of the creative imagination in 20th century poetry. Johnston is an assistant professor of English at Saint Louis University. ●

Oberlin

Alumni Notes

Year by Year

New Happenings in the Oberlin Community • Fall 2002

1942

Marge Peacher was featured in a Hagerstown, Maryland, newspaper, which noted her 20 years of service as organist at the Congregation B'nai Abraham. Although Episcopalian, Marge has taken part in Jewish evening services. Her career includes stints at Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, and First Christian Church. • **Norman S. Rothbart** earned a law degree with honors from Northwestern University School of Law in 1950; he retired from practicing law in 1978. He moved to Las Vegas in 1994 and celebrated his 79th birthday in May. In "excellent health," Norman says he is looking forward to the Big 80 next year. • **Victor J. Stone** will receive the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois 2002 Roger Baldwin Lifetime Achievement Award in October, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the fostering and defense of civil liberties.

1945

Joy Graham Shinnick moved to a new 40-acre retirement community in Blakehurst, Baltimore, in March that is conveniently located near Towson University (where she takes classes), her church, and the Women's Club of Roland Park. Still in good health, Joy and former Obie roommate Peg Eldred Mingus have been corresponding coast-to-coast for the past six years.

1948

Patricia Gillson Baker worked as a clinical psychologist in Menlo Park, California, since earning her license in 1991. She retired in May to her cabin on Lopez Island in Washington with her dogs, eagles, rabbits, and cats. "Be well, all!" she says. • **Marianne Liberatore** heads South Shore Music for Youth in Westport, Connecticut, an organization that offers performance opportunities to musicians graduating from conservatories. Marianne previously served as president of South Shore Music, a branch of the newly formed SSMY. • **Priscilla Lussmyer**

and her son John moved from Lowell, Michigan, to Whidbey Island, Washington, in September settling amidst 20 acres of third-growth evergreens. Priscilla, now retired, lived in a venerable mobile home next door to John until her new modular was placed this summer. With their three cats and two bobcats, she enjoys learning about the Northwest and playing in the woods. E-mail: Priscilla@CasaDelGato.com.

1950

Dorothy Bradley Whitcomb (Kentuck) continues to teach swimming, lifeguarding, and other Red Cross classes as aquatics director at Pensacola Junior College. Last year she re-certified as a Red Cross lifeguard "just to prove to my students that at age 73, I can." Dorothy swam in the USMS National Championships in Hawaii in May and enjoys traveling to England, France, Kenya, and Italy with her grandchildren. A: 3130 Leesburg Sq., Pensacola, FL 32504. E-mail: whitcomb@dotstar.net.

1952

Christie Campbell and husband **Parks Campbell** rented an Italian villa near Vicenza last year for three weeks. They were joined by Obies **Mary Morrisett**, **Eric Rothchild**, **Sue Whitney**, and **Bob Whitney**; Lloyd Morrisett and Dick Crout, both '51; Carol Crout '53; and Carl Gerber and Maxine Houck, both '58. "It was a delightful opportunity for a mini-reunion," says Christie.



Christie Campbell

1955

Bill Venman and wife Sally '54 had a University of Massachusetts endowment fund named after them in March. The Bill and Sally Venman Community Development Fund, which has already raised \$600,000, will be used by the

Arts Extension Service to create and deliver educational arts programs in the state and nation. The couple was presented with the honor for their active involvement in the community. Bill was founding director of the Division of Continuing Education at UMass and instrumental in creating Arts Extension Service, a 27-year-old university/community outreach program.

1957

William Reed retired from Bell Telephone Laboratories on November 16, 2001, after celebrating his 40th service anniversary in October. Bill joined the metals research department there in 1961 after completing a Ph.D. in physics at Northwestern University. He studied the electrical properties of metals, electronic transport properties of superconductors, properties of chemical bonds in solids using Compton scattering, and the characterization and design of optical fibers for use in telecommunications. Bill was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society in 1965 and a Bell Labs Distinguished Member of Technical Staff in 1984. He and wife Patricia Hawley live in Summit, New Jersey, where Bill has joined OFS Laboratories and continues to conduct research on optical fiber design. Pat teaches at the Summit YMCA and supervises a tutoring program for inner-city children.

1958

David W. Robinson backpacked 1,010 miles from Georgia to Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, from April 22 to July 13, 2001, to complete a five-year hike of the Appalachian Trail by sections. Wife **Barbara Lamkin Barnes** provided vital encouragement, support, and supply packages. The 2,200-mile trail has attracted David since 1957, when roommate **Gerald**



David Robinson

profile



Sister President

Johnnetta Betsch Cole '57 is something of a revolutionary in higher education. Her career reveals a devotion to curricular reform, minority student advancement, and community service, and she led to prominence Spelman College, the historically black college for women. Cole retired in 2001, hoping to continue her work in other fields, but a call from North Carolina's Bennett College pulled her out of academic retirement. The nation's

only other historically black college for women, Bennett sought a president to pull it out of its financial troubles. Cole was happy to oblige.

The 65-year-old educator developed a passion for social justice at a young age, inspired by family members dedicated to community service and civil rights activism. "Growing up in the Jim Crow south, there was evidence all around me for the need for social change," she said.

Her Oberlin years fueled her passion for equality and diversity. "I came from the segregated south—where religious diversity meant Methodist or Baptist, and where racial diversity meant black or white," she said. "My insistence that the world is made better by multiple views was solidified by my college experience."

Following sociology studies at Oberlin and a Ph.D. in anthropology from Northwestern, Cole began a career as an author and professor. She directed the black studies program at Washington State University and the Latin American and Caribbean studies program at Hunter College. As associate provost at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, she led a successful campaign to reform the general education requirements.

But it was her work as the president of Spelman that gained national attention, both for herself and the school. Tapped for the position in 1987, she accepted the presidency out of a desire to promote education for minority women.

"I didn't want to be the president of a college," she told a reporter in 1998. "But what kept standing out was that this was a place that dared to say it educated African American women well."

By all accounts, Cole improved on that legacy. As the first black female president in the school's 107-year history, Cole became popular with students who dubbed her Spelman's "Sister President." She was also popular with donors: During her 10-year tenure, Cole helped raise more than \$113 million, tripling the college's endowment. She started a corporate partnership program, enlisting the help of 77 major companies through her charm and persistence.

Under Cole's leadership, the school soared to national prominence, noted as *U.S. News and World Report's* "Best College Buy" in 1992 and ranked by *Money* magazine as the best historically black college in 1996.

Leaders in the higher education community expressed their enthusiasm about Cole's appointment at Bennett, which began this summer. "Dr. Cole is one of the most outstanding leaders in higher education in the country with a proven track record and the ability to transform institutions, taking them to a new level of excellence," said William H. Gray, III, president and CEO of the United Negro College Fund.

"A commitment to social justice is a commitment to work for it in every way and everywhere." With this philosophy, she has served on Bill Clinton's 1992 transition team, authored several books, engaged in the corporate world as a board member and diversity consultant, and consistently engaged in community service.

—Peter Meredith '02

Humel introduced him to backpacking in the Presidential Range of New Hampshire. David says it took him five years to refine his equipment, diet, and technique; reduce his pack weight; and increase his distance from 100 to 300 miles to last year's finish. He's not planning a "thru hike," though. E-mail: barbanddavid@aol.com.

1959

Ben Lindfors, a professor of African and English literature at the University of Texas since 1969, was the commencement speaker at the University of Natal in South Africa last spring, where he received an honorary doctor of literature degree and recognition as a major figure in the study of African literature. • **Sue Cassell Spangler** retired in June 2001 after 14 years of teaching high school students with disabilities. Since August 2001, she has been an ESL literacy tutor to a 32-year-old Afghan

woman whose husband was conscripted by the Soviets as a helicopter pilot. "Her perspective on Islam and the Afghan situation since 9/11 has been an eye-opener," she says. With more free time, Sue is learning to line dance, continues to create dollhouse miniatures, visits with her 2-year-old grandson, Gavin, and enjoys traveling with husband Pat. E-mail: pspangle@worldnet.att.net.

1960

Sarah Newcomb married Jim McDade in July 2001. Among the guests were her sons Owen Lamont '88 and Nathan Lamont '92, Mariette Hiu Newcomb '56, Michael Lipsky '61, Hana Newcomb '80, Lani Newcomb '82, Anna Newcomb Bradford and Jim Bradford, both '84, Charles Newcomb '87, and Kristin MacDougall '92. Also on hand were Sarah's six grandchildren and Jim's four grandchil-

dren. E-mail: sarah.newcomb@verizon.net

1961

Kenneth Burky is chair of the piano and performance departments and director of undergraduate music studies at the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. In February he was promoted to professor of piano and continues to perform, judge for various professional organizations, and advise 40 music majors. Despite 40 years of teaching at the collegiate level, Ken says he isn't planning to retire anytime soon. A: 5055 Beech Rd., Murrysville, PA 15668. H: 724.327.8244. E-mail: burky@duq.edu.

1962

Ron Surace, pianist with the Ron Surace Jazz Trio, presented an April concert with the group at "Pops for Champagne" in Highwood, Illinois. His jazz CDs, *New Cool* (1995), *Nearly Blue*

(1999), and *Trio City* (2001) are on the Southport label. Ron's earlier recordings were quartets—he played bass trumpet and saxophone. National Public Radio placed *Trio City* on the jazz top-20 list in 2001, and a local station added it to the top-25 jazz list this year. Ron teaches at the Lake Forest Symphony Orchestra School of Music and lives in Evanston with wife Ann. He is a freelance musician in the Chicago area, while Ann is director of church music at Zion Lutheran Church in Deerfield.

1964

Jim Cooper and Rob Stafford '92 performed in the Troupers Light Opera productions of *HMS Pinafore* and *Trial by Jury* in New Canaan, Connecticut. Rob played Dick Deadeye and Usher on bass-baritone, while Jim played a sailor and juror. Obies attending the five performances were Marianne Barcellona and Rick Churchill, both '66. • **Cal Skinner, Jr.**, an ex-republican and 16-year state representative, is now the Libertarian Party candidate for governor in Illinois. Eleven years ago he married Michele Giangrasso; in 2000 the couple adopted Steve, 4. "It's a challenge to run after a 4-year-old and for statewide office," says Cal.

1965

Gayle Burch is now married to Donald Crocker. Her daughter Deborah graduated magna cum laude from Louisiana College and is a medical student at Louisiana State Medical School. A: 194 Rambling Rd., Ville Platte, Baton Rouge, LA 70586. • **Judith Roberts Cohen** joined Greystone Programs in Dutchess County, New York, in August 2000, which provides residential, job training, and other services to mentally disabled adults. She is a nurse at one of the residences. Husband Eli is retired, and son David works at Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center in Baton Rouge as a computer data technician. E-mail: Prdinpiel@aol.com.

1966

Muriel Minot and husband Terry Beasor appeared in the television show "The Practice" on May 5. The couple played the parents of the defendant in one scene and spent the rest of the program in the courtroom. Their Kellogg's commercial is currently running in which they play a "kissing couple."

1967

Lillian Lynk Fleming moved into her new home in Chicago and continues to teach world geography at Wilbur Wright College. A: 718 S.



Lillian Fleming

Oakley Blvd., Chicago, IL 60612. P: 312.226.7713. E-mail: youresogood@aol.com. •

Patricia Gray was honored as a Fulbright Senior Specialist in April by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. The appointment was based on her career as a performing artist, concert producer, and director of the BioMusic Program. She holds an MM degree from the University of Wisconsin/Madison and a DMA from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. • **Ginka Gerova Ortega** was named one of Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women by *Corp!* magazine in March. An acclaimed flutist, she performs worldwide with top orchestras and ensembles,



Ginka Ortega

including the Moscow Virtuosi, the Atrium Musicae de Madrid, and the Musica Viva collaborations. Ginka has appeared on radio and television programs throughout the country and has received

international awards and honors for her Concerts of Disaster Relief through the Red Cross and Council of Churches. She is founder/director of Musica Viva International Concerts, a presenter of concert events using international and local talent.

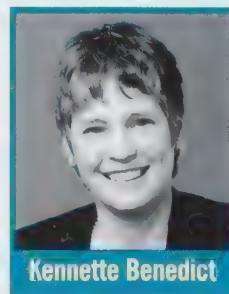
1968

Warren Darcy published an article, "Rotational Form, Teleological Genesis, and Fantasy-Projection in the Slow Movement of Mahler's Sixth Symphony" in the 19th Century Music journal. In May he presented a paper called "Rotational Form and the Thematization of Failure in Mahler's Fish Sermon" at the annual meeting of Music Theory Midwest. Both papers attempted to integrate new analytical methods developed by Darcy and James Hepokoski with traditional modes of analysis such as Schenkerian theory. • **Daniel K. Miller** returned from a tour of duty in Bolivia with ACDI/VOCA, a nonprofit organization that promotes broad-based economic growth and the development of civil society in emerging democra-

cies and developing countries. His tour involved a disease survey of cattle in Tarija, where "the work was long, intense, and very satisfying. It involved the best of Oberlin—learning and labor at its optimum," Daniel says. He suggests that Obies who are involved in some aspect of agriculture investigate www.acdivoca.org/acdivoca/Webdocs.nsf/VolunteerbyProject?OpenForm. "It is a terrific opportunity to live what we used to preach." A: 400 E. Griffin Parkway, #5, Mission, TX 78572. P: 011.52.818.115.2226; 011.52.818.115.2227. E-mail: danmiller@hotmail.com. • **Glenn Roberts** now owns the company he spent 11 years working for. Now known as The Roberts Group, the Washington-based trade association management firm specializes in FDA-regulated industries such as flavors, fragrances, spices, and food color. Roberts is working towards pushing the company into the 21st century and has increased its size to 25 employees. • **Eve F. Roshevsky** delivered a paper, "The Epiphany of Paul Tillich: Toward a Theology of Art," at the Mid-Atlantic American Academy of Religion's annual meeting in Baltimore in March. She will enter a master's degree program at Empire State College later this year to continue studying art and the sacred. A passionate New Yorker, Eve is an editor in midtown Manhattan and lives in Carnegie Hill with her cat, Murphy. E-mail: eroshevsky@hotmail.com.

1969

Kennette M. Benedict, director of the peace and international security area of the Program on Global Security and Sustainability of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur



Kennette Benedict

Foundation, was named senior advisor on philanthropy. She works with the foundation's president to review and assess the role of private foundations in the U.S. and abroad. Kennette previously taught at Rutgers University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, served in a Massachusetts state planning agency on law enforcement and criminal justice, published several articles, and performed consulting work in various capacities. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford. • **Bill Aarnes'** second collection of poems, *Predicaments* (Ninety-Six Press), was released in April. He continues to teach at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. E-mail: Aarnearn@aol.com.

1971

Norma Hymes opened a solo practice in general internal medicine after 22 years in group practice and is using her newfound leisure time to read and exercise. A: 140 Riverside Dr., #9A, New York, NY 10024. P: 212.787.7234. • **Will Jordan** is founder/director of the Inner Insight Institute, a spiritual development center in Denver and Colorado Springs that teaches energy healing, clairvoyance, and aura and chakra balancing. A: 435 W. Jamison Cir., Littleton, CO 80120. P: 303.703.3700. E-mail: willjordan@aol.com. Web: www.innerinsight.com. • **Robert Sirota's** organ concerto, *In the Fullness of Time*, premiered at the 2000 Seattle AGO National Convention and the Seattle Symphony. It enjoyed a number of performances, having been chosen by Oberlin's Conservatory of Music for the inaugural concert of the new Fisk organ last fall and by the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra in February. The Seattle Symphony also included the piece in its subscription series with Hatsumi Miura in May and June.

1972

Benjamin Bagby is artistic director and lyre player for Sequentia, a medieval music ensemble. He was praised for his "utmost finesse" in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* for the group's performance in March at Cuyahoga Community College. • **Gail Feigenbaum** is associate director of programs at the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, where she oversees and directs the exhibition and publications programs. Gail has worked as curator of painting at the New Orleans Museum of Art; the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; and as research curator of French painting, curator of academic programs, coordinator of special exhibition projects, and acting associate dean of the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts. • **Shira Rosan** received the Edgar Award for Best Short Story of 2001 by the Mystery Writers of America for *Double-Crossing Delancey*, published in the *Mystery Street* anthology. Her book *Reflecting the Sky* was nominated this year for best novel. A: 302-A West 12th St., #298, New York, NY 10014. E-mail: SJRosan@aol.com.

1973

Jeffrey Alan Foust received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion for his 25 years of distinguished service to the Jewish community. Jeffrey is the rabbi at Temple Beth Israel

in Waltham, Massachusetts, Jewish advisor to the Spiritual Life Center at Bentley College, and is an instructor in Jewish thought at the New Jewish High School. He co-founded Reishit Chochma, an adult liberal center for Jewish learning in greater Boston, is the rabbinic advisor to mental health services and support at Boston's Trinity Church, and is otherwise deeply involved in the community. • **Cynthia Howard** was awarded a fellowship by the Bush Foundation of St. Paul, Minnesota. She is on a leave of absence from her job as a public defender to pursue a master's degree in criminology at the University of Cambridge in England. A: 505 Autumn Ln., Sioux Falls, SD 57105. P: 605.335.3238. E-mail: choward@minnehahacounty.org. • **Thomas Riis** was appointed Joseph Negler Professor of Music in his 10th year of teaching at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He will present a paper on the music of Charles Ives at an upcoming International Musicological Society meeting in Belgium and is working on a book devoted to Broadway composer Frank Loesser for Yale University Press. P: 303.492.7540. E-mail: riis@spot.colorado.edu.

1974

Kris Knaplund, after committing 18 years to UCLA Law School, joined Pepperdine Law School as associate professor, teaching courses on property and on wills and trust. E-mail: kris.knaplund@pepperdine.edu. • **Susan Macaulay** is a proud mother to Anna Haiqiong Macaulay, born November 5, 2000, in Hunan, China. Anna joins big sister Lauren, 3, born in Jiangxi, China, and adopted in March 2000. She is a partner with the law firm of Gardner, Carton & Douglas in Chicago and an adjunct professor at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Susan performs with the Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra as a piano soloist and percussionist. A: 310 Park Ave., River Forest, IL 60305. P: 312.245.8842. E-mail: smacaulay@gcd.com. • **Kenneth C. Martin** was elected to the Macedonia City Council in November 2001 for a four-year term. An attorney in Akron, Ohio, Kenneth has been married to Katherine for 23 years and has two sons, Hugh, 18 and Kenny, 14. • **Christa Rakich** joined the organ department at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she will teach organ and keyboard harmony and improvisation. A Fulbright Scholar, Christa studied for two years with Anton Heiller at Hochschule fur Musik in Vienna, Austria, and taught for several years at NEC after earning a

master's degree there. She served on the faculties of Westminster Choir College and the University of Connecticut, as assistant university organist at Harvard, and as artist-in-residence at the University of Pennsylvania. Her recordings include J.S. Bach's *Clavierubung III*, *Deferred Voices: Organ Music by Women*, *Transcriptions from St. Justin's*, and a live recording of her performance at the 2000 National AGO Convention in Seattle. Christa is director of music at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the Jesuit Urban Center in Boston. E-mail: christa.rakich@jucboston.org. Web: www.christarakich.com. • **Eugene K. Sawyer** was elevated to Fellowship in the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in April. He practices occupational and environmental medicine as medical director at Concentra Medical Center in Southfield, Michigan, and is a member of the Michigan Occupational and Environmental Association, one of ACOEM's 31 component medical societies.



Christa Rakich

1975

Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper edited *The Collected Works of Langston Hughes, Volume 7: The Early Simple Stories* (University of Missouri Press). The book is a scholarly edition of the American writer's "simple stories" about a Harlem everyman. Donna published *The Not So Simple: The "Simple" Stories by Langston Hughes* in 1995. • **Richard Mandell** is an acupuncturist, a teacher at a Massachusetts acupuncture school, and founder of The Pan-African Acupuncture Project. TPAP has traveled to African communities hit hard by HIV/AIDS to train medical providers with acupuncture treatments that will address symptoms, improve quality of life, and promote a sense of hope. TPAP's pilot project was in Kampala, Uganda. Web: www.panafricanacupuncture.org. E-mail: richard.mandell@verizon.net. • **Scott Schulten** says the law practice he started in 1986 has grown to 15 attorneys and that a recent move could prompt future growth. He practices commercial transactions and commercial real estate exclusively.

1976

Barbara Fisher was named executive vice president of entertainment at Lifetime. On June 3, she became responsible for all entertainment,

sports, and documentary programming for the cable station and its two sister services, Lifetime Movie Network and Lifetime Real Women. Prior to her appointment, Barbara was president of Universal Studios Network Programming, where she was responsible for the NBC sitcoms "Just Shoot Me" and "The Steve Harvey Show." She previously served as publicist for A&M Records and as president of Universal Television Entertainment, where she developed several popular miniseries and movies. She and television director husband Michael Scott have two sons, Zachary, 14, and Kyle, 11. • **Leanne Wagner** was appointed vice president of business strategy, planning, and finance with Wyeth BioPharma in Madison, New Jersey, where she reports to senior vice president Michael Kamarck '73. Leanne joined Wyeth Consumer Healthcare in 1998 as vice president of business development and strategic planning and moved to AHP Corporate as associate vice president of strategic development. Prior to joining Wyeth, she spent six years with Sandoz and eight years with SmithKline Beechman in Massachusetts. She holds an MS in genetics from Cornell University and an MBA from Columbia.

1977

Patricia E. Black was elected to the governing body of the Modern Language Association and regularly reads her own articles at the group's annual convention. She attended National Endowment for the Humanities seminars at Notre Dame and Brandeis universities and published an article in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*; another will appear in *Olifant*, a medieval studies journal. Patricia is a professor at California State University. • **Carl Thiermann** was named the new upper school head at the Head-Royce School in Oakland, California. A: 1331 Stannage Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702. P: 510.558.1584. E-mail: ct@headroyce.org.

1978

Holly Christman says that after completing her medical training and serving on the faculty at the University of California, she started a private practice specializing in dermatologic surgery and works part time so she can enjoy her



Holly Christman

two "exquisite" children—Julian, 5, and Luca, 2. She is married to a fellow Pittsburgher and keeps in touch with another, Heidi Swarts '78, whom she met in the Asia House bathroom after Heidi asked her, "Are you going to shave your legs after College?" "A searing political issue reflective of the times!" she says. E-mail: drhollyc@earthlink.net.

1979

Tom Breunig and Tomi Obayashi '82 moved from Vashon Island, Washington, to Berkeley, California, where Tom is vice president of corporate communications at a French-owned semiconductor company. Tomi has a private practice in craniosacral therapy. They have three children: Marlee, 10, Sophie, 7, and Toby, 4. E-mail: tomitom3@earthlink.net. • **Lynn Deichert** was promoted from instructor to lecturer in music at Carleton College. • **Karen Bookman Kaplan** was ordained 10 years ago and will start a new post as rabbi of Temple Beth Ahavath Sholom in Brooklyn. She completed a clinical pastoral education program and plans to minister to the sick, bereaved, and those in other crises. Karen's 81-year-old father was married in May.

profile

Redefining Choral Music

Hot dogs! Armour hot dogs! What kinds of kids eat Armour hot dogs?"

Remember that jingle? Douglas Frank '78 certainly does. His legendary solo performance at age 9 foretold a string of on-camera and voice-over successes and a 22-year career in marketing and advertising.

But two years ago, he walked away from it all, pledging instead to pursue a life-long love of ensemble singing and the vocal arts.

He and his newly formed ensemble, The Douglas Frank Chorale, have been recording and touring to the delight of audiences and music critics. The group's first CD, "The A Cappella Singer," (September 2000) competed with respected vocal ensembles to win the distinguished Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award for Best Classical Album in 2001. The group is planning outreach seminars and concerts



Frank, top center, with the Douglas Frank Chorale.

and a performance of classical and jazz works set to Shakespearean texts at the Merkin Concert Hall in New York this fall.

Frank's parents' tenuous experiences as actors during the Golden Age of radio (his father performed in Orson Welles' infamous 1938 broadcast of "The War of the Worlds") conditioned Frank to be wary of the field. "I learned early on that the performing arts could be anything but glamorous or reliable. There's an ugly dog-eat-dog side to it all."

Nevertheless, he was raised with a passion for music and performance and enjoyed a 10-year career as a child actor and singer. He carried his fervor to Oberlin, founding the Madrigal Singers in 1976. At Oberlin, he says, he found artists with great integrity and sensitive hearts, as well as teachers who were motivated by real passion.

—Matt Vella '03 Tour and concert dates are available at <http://www.dougfrank.com>

profile

On a Mission

There is little to no rainfall in Nigeria from January through May, so Rawn Woodlief's middle school students could hardly sit still in anticipation of the year's first downpour. When the rain finally fell, they begged to look outside and stand or lie down in the fresh water.

"It's wonderful to see students rejoice in God's creation—in any land," Woodlief '91 wrote to family and friends, describing her work in the city of Jos as an English and social studies teacher to the children of Bible translators and local students.

Woodlief (above, center, with fellow church members in her compound) has been lending spiritual support to Bible translators since her first year at Oberlin and throughout her graduate and teaching work at the Newark Christian School in New Jersey. She then joined Wycliffe Bible Translators, an international organization working with 1,095 world languages. With continued financial support from family and friends, she journeyed to Hillcrest School in Jos, which houses several mission and church headquarters, and teaches students from more than 20 countries, visits with mission teams in remote locations, organizes monthly prayer sessions for translators, and is part of a 300-member Bible study group.

"I can't think of anything else I would rather do," Woodlief says. "The worldview of my students is much broader than most school settings in the U.S. They are caring, tend to be less concerned about material things, and are respectful."

This summer, Woodlief agreed to extend her teaching commitment for another year, after which time she plans to return to the U.S. before heading back to West Africa in 2004.



—Yvonne Gay Fowler

1980

Melissa Carter-Goodrum says after she was laid off from Unext.com, she and her Bloomington colleagues started a new e-learning company called Option Six, which develops online courses for companies and universities. Melissa is vice president of development. A: 3014 Daniel St., Bloomington, IN 47401. E-mail: mcarterg@hotmail.com.

1981

Laura Goering was promoted from associate professor to professor at Carleton College. She holds an MA and Ph.D. from Cornell University in Slavic studies and joined Carleton's German and Russian department in 1988. She teaches a range of subjects, from Russian language to a new course that examines the culture of nervous disorders in turn-of-the-century Europe. Laura is an advocate for developing computer-based methods of teaching Russian and served as a research fellow in the Summer Research

Laboratory at the University of Illinois.

1982

Michelle Bushey was promoted to professor of chemistry at Trinity University in San Antonio in August. E-mail: mbushey@trinity.edu.

1983

Nina L. Dulabaum and husband Harry Gould welcomed their second daughter, Seana Gould Dulabaum, on February 4. "What a joy!" she says. • **Andrea Lehman** and **Andy Rowan** continue to live happily in Trenton, New Jersey, with their two daughters and now only one cat. (Portia, acquired at Oberlin in 1983, died a few years back.) After finishing his Ph.D. in environmental science at Rutgers, Andy works as director of the new GIS Center of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association. Andrea's book, *Around Philadelphia with Kids*, was published by Fodor's Travel Guides last summer. • **David Montgomery** lives in Pittsburgh and

practices law with Thorp, Reed & Armstrong, where he assisted as election law counsel in last year's mayoralty campaign and worked in the "Ed Rendell for Governor" campaign. "Somehow, I missed Bush vs. Gore," he says. E-mail: dmontgomery@thorpreed.com. • **Tim Riley**'s book, *Tell Me Why: A Beatles Commentary*, was updated and reprinted by Da Capo Publishers. In the epilogue, he examines new primary source material available since the book's first edition in 1988. *Tell Me Why* was an outgrowth of an Oberlin ExCo course Tim taught when he was Tim Mikesell, working toward double degrees in English and piano. He's since gone on to write *Hard Rain: A Dylan Commentary* and *Madonna: Illustrated*. His fourth book is on its way. A freelancer for the *Washington Post*, Salon.com, and National Public Radio, he is busy now raising sons Moses, 4, and Adam, 1, with wife Sara Laschever in Somerville, Massachusetts. E-mail: triley60@yahoo.com. Web: www.geocities.com/triley60. • **David I. Spanagel** held a lecture at Oberlin in April titled "What Can Happen When Nature Poses a Question of 'Authorship': the Example of Prairie Formation in American Environmental History and Politics." The lecture covered prairies, fire, and tribes in the Indian culture from 1634 to 1905.

1984

Douglas Braun has been a member of the North Coast Men's Chorus in Ohio since its inception in 1994. He completed an American Sign Language interpreter training program at Cleveland State University in 1987 and earned a master's degree in social work from Case Western Reserve University in 1991. He also works with Gay Pride. • **Karen Bronson** and Rick Clark were married August 21, 1999, at Karen's family home in Binghamton, New York. Obies in attendance were **Hilary Dick**: Karen's father, Leo Bronson '41; and Sarah Anderson Richards '85. The couple lives in Rochester, New York, where Karen is the food service director for Monroe #1 BOCES school system and Rick is an engineer for Eastman Kodak. A: 7 Chesfield Lookout, Fairport, NY 14450. • **Hilary Dick** and Jeff Barker were married in October 1999 in Bluemont, Virginia. Obies in attendance were **Karen Bronson Clark**, Leo Bronson '41, Laura Cheek '90, and Hilary's sisters, Hadyn Dick '96 and Hadley Dick '02. The couple lives in Annapolis, Maryland, where Hilary is vice pres-

ident of development at Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Washington, D.C., and Jeff is a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*. E-mail: rtchilary@transact.org. • **Bruce Gordon Heller** earned a medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine on May 19 and expects to complete a residency in family practice at Sutter Medical Center in Santa Rosa, California. He was one of six students who received the Alfred S. Maschke Award for excellence in the art and practice of medicine. • **Victor Prussack** and wife Lisa Kusel welcomed daughter Loy on February 23; Lisa Hillegas '85 was there for the birth. Victor was appointed to the Nevada City Planning Commission after taking on a "big city developer" at a city council meeting. His wife's first novel, *Other Fish in the Sea*, was published by Hyperion and will be available in April 2003. A: 234 American Hill Rd., Nevada City, CA 95959. P: 530.470.0930. E-mail: vicvicp@yahoo.com. • **Michael Rossotto** is legal director for the Washington Environmental Council in Seattle, where he does some litigation and a lot of legal/political strategy. In March, he served on three panels in two days at two different continuing legal education seminars on environmental law. E-mail: mike@wecprotects.org. • **Bruce Wightman** was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of biology at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard and joined the Muhlenberg faculty in 1996.

1985

Anne Adams and husband Tom Schnauber welcomed Johannes Gaalen Schnauber on February 16. After spending eight "wonderful" weeks at home, Anne is back at St. Olaf College as assistant professor of voice. A: 806 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN 55057. E-mail: doyleyad@stolaf.edu. • **Kenneth Cole** was appointed director of advancement at Levine School of Music in July 2001. A community music school in Washington, D.C., Levine serves 3,500 students of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of ability. Ken previously served for seven years as executive director of GALA Choruses, an international arts service association of the gay and lesbian choral movement. He has been singing with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington for the past nine years, which performed a salute to Hammerstein and Sondheim at the Kennedy Center in June. E-mail: ken-coledc@aol.com. • **Amy Polak Schefer** mar-

ried her love-at-first-sight Swiss boyfriend, Sebastian, in November. The happy couple lives in Oakland, California, where Amy is a bilingual (Spanish) elementary teacher and Sebastian is a pastry chef. P: 510.655.7875. E-mail: msource@pacbell.net.

1986

Jim Sedlacek and wife Clare welcomed Anne Clare on January 30, 2001. Five months later, the couple moved from Atlanta to Plymouth, Wisconsin, to be closer to family. Jim is the head football coach and a health and physical education teacher at Plymouth High School. "Small town life is exactly what I was looking for; it's been fantastic," he says. A: 330 N. Stafford St., Plymouth, WI 53073. P: 920.893.6878. E-mail: jasedlac@plymouth.k12.wi.us. • **Josh Shuman** and wife Bat-Zion welcomed daughter Tamar Rinat in September 2001, joining brothers Amitai, 9, and Golan, 7. He works for Ruder Finn, an international public relations agency, running the local high-tech side of things. He has been living in Israel since the late 1980s and is experiencing his second war. (During the Gulf War he served in the Israel Defense Forces Spokesman's unit, where he heard and saw SCUD missiles regularly.) "This time I know too many people directly hit by the current Israel-Palestinian War," he says. Bat-Zion has taught Hebrew at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for the past 10 years with a number of Obies as students. E-mail: josh@ruderfinn.co.il. P: +972.2.672.3903.

1987

Adrian Danzig is in her second year as director of *500 Clown Macbeth*, an unpredictable theater piece that "destroys and reconstructs" Shakespeare's bloody tragedy. She taught several clown theater workshops during the production's return to Chicago's Chopin Theatre in April and May. • **Jane Read Gagne** and husband Dan welcomed Philip Albert on July 6, 2001, who already is copying his parents' love of music and food. After six months as a stay-at-home mom, Jane returned to private practice in family medicine part time. A: 103 Bell Farm Estates, Sewickley, PA 15143. • **Katja Linfield** and Michael Rice welcomed spontaneous triplets on May 6, two days shy of 33 weeks—and all are doing well. Before Maya, Gabriella, and Zoe were released from the hospital in late May, mom and dad prepared by getting lots of sleep and recovering from sur-

gery. E-mail: katjal@qwest.net. • **Brenna Lisowski** gave birth to daughter Abra Elisabeth on January 18. "Abra is a delight," says Brenna, a trial attorney with the Wisconsin State Public Defender's office. E-mail: brennalisowski@yahoo.com. • **Erika Zucker** and John Jabaley welcomed Hannah Rose Zucker Jabaley on January 8. A "union baby," Hannah has already joined her mother at community and worker meetings. Erika is back at work as a general counsel for the L.A. Alliance for a New Economy, where her next big project is working toward passage of the referendum on the Santa Monica Living Wage ordinance in November. A: 516 W. Ave., #46, Los Angeles, CA 90065. E-mail: ezucker@laane.org.

1989

Ken Moore (A.K.A. "Fridge"), editor and news reporter at *The Potomac Almanac*, won "Newspaper of the Year" from the Maryland Delaware D.C. Press Association for his 14 individual awards for news writing, photography, and sports writing. He says the most gratifying award was first place in public service for yearlong news coverage inspiring community involvement in the creation of Potomac's Master Plan. The land-use document will control development for the next 20 years, focusing on protection of the Potomac River and its surrounding environment. E-mail: fridgeken@hotmail.com. • **Dawn Carpick Palmer** completed an MBA focusing on high tech/biotech from the University of Washington. "I have no idea what I'll be doing in a few months, mainly because my lovely Seattle-based biotech is being acquired by a (hopefully) lovely California-based biotech. Seattle is full of Obies, but maybe I can find some in Thousand Oaks," she says. A: 538 N. 78th St., Seattle, WA 98103. P: 206.783.5474. E-mail: dawnp@oz.net. • **Portia Boulware Ransom** and husband Antonio welcomed Jarius Marcellus Rai Ransom on April 15. "We are so much in love with him. He is truly the center of our joy," Portia says, adding that although she completed her doctorate at Purdue University last spring, she is looking forward to being a stay-at-home mom for awhile. A: 1350 Alexander Dr., Bolingbrook, IL 60490. • **Todd W. Reeser** earned a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in French literature in 1997 and is professor of French at the University of Utah. A: 68 N. B St., #3, Salt Lake City, UT 84103. P: 801.741.0030. E-mail: Reeser@mail.hum.utah.edu.

1990

Tammy Dowley-Blackman and Mark Blackman '89 welcomed daughter Isabella "Isa" Mia on November 21, 2001. Tammy is executive director of Summerbridge of greater Philadelphia, a non-profit providing academic enrichment to middle school students. Mark is an educational administrator hoping to pursue a Ph.D. in educational leadership at the University of Pennsylvania. A: 654 W. Johnson St., Philadelphia, PA 19144. E-mail: tdowley_blackman@hotmail.com, markblackman03@hotmail.com. • **Susan Nolan Lubow** and husband Barry welcomed Jenna YongBei Lubow on February 18. Jenna, who was born March 20, 2001, and adopted in Hunan Province, China, is joined by sister, Rebecca, 4, and brother Eli, 2. E-mail: slubow@bakerlaw.com. • **Laura Knowles**



Toepfer was ordained as an Episcopal priest on May 4 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Gambier, Ohio. Donna Ross, former rector of Christ Church in Oberlin, preached at Laura's ordination; **Peter Nicholson** was the official

Oberlin representative. Since earning an MDiv degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley in May 2001, Laura has served as assistant rector at Harcourt Parish in Seattle, Washington, Episcopal chaplain at Kenyon College, and at Christ Church in New York, where she was ordained as a transitional deaconite in June 2001. E-mail: toepferl@kenyon.edu. • **Elizabeth Winchell** completed her second year at Golden Gate University School of Law and would like to find other Obie attorneys in the San Francisco Bay area. "What kind of law do you practice and why do you like it?" she asks. E-mail: elizabeth@winchell.net.

1991

Shelly Casto and husband Kevin Fish celebrated their son Gabriel's first birthday on May 1. His "current fads are: 'reading' papers as close to his face as possible, making loud proclamations on world events, and running around the house with one sock on and one sock off." Shelly has been associate director of education at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut, for the past five years, while Kevin is a stop motion animation artist. The family is in the process of returning to their hometown of Columbus, Ohio. E-mail:

castofish@msn.com. • **Erika Bohn Goldbaum** and her two sons have converted to Judaism. "I enjoyed visiting **Leah Wahrhaftig-Jer** and her family this spring—her children are as lovely as their mother," she says. A: 259 Second St., Jersey City, NJ 07302. E-mail: eebgold@earthlink.net. • **Jesse Malkin** and Michelle Maglalang Malkin '92 live in suburban Maryland, where Jesse is a health policy analyst for the RAND Corporation and will run his first marathon this fall. Michelle writes a nationally syndicated column, works as a "Fox News" analyst, and is writing a book on immigration reform. The couple's 2-year-old daughter Veronica enjoys Blues Clues and Dora the Explorer. E-mail: malkin@comcast.net.

1992

Hiren R. Patel says that five years in Boston have passed quicker than his previous five in California. He, wife Shital, and daughter Maya are moving to Manhattan, where Hiren will begin a fellowship in musculoskeletal radiology at the Hospital for Special Surgery. E-mail: hiren@stanfordalumni.org.

1993

Rupert Brauch was married to Leigh Zerboni in August. He finished first place in the Devil Mountain Double Century bike race in California, setting a new course record of 12:36 minutes, a 12-minute lead on the second-place rider. Rupert says the one-day bike ride is among the toughest in the world, consisting of 205 miles and 20,000-foot elevations. The race was the first stage in the California Triple Crown Stage Race.

• **Natasha Herron** and Neil Chriss were married May 11 at Troutbeck in Amenia, New York. Obies in attendance were **Susan Bleyle**, bridesmaid **Nina Brown**, **Narahya Jolly**, **Tamar Kotelchuck**, **Tanya Maggi**, and **Debra Wexler**; Susan Ostroff Bartow and Robert Bartow, both '67; Evan Spingarn '91; Nell Flanders '93; and Kate Sanford Spingarn '95. Nell, Tanya, and Kate performed in the ceremony, and Evan was the master of the wines. Upon returning from a honeymoon in Sedona, Arizona, Natasha graduated from Cornell Medical School and began a residency in psychiatry at New York Presbyterian Hospital in June. E-mail: natasha-herron@vzavenue.net.

1994

Carol Church and Geoff Parks were married March 16 in Gainesville, Florida, with **Allison**

Maine, **Sarah Webb**, **David Edenbach**, **Leslie Dominguez**, **Ellen Clegg**, and Greg Walters '03 looking on. Leslie contributed a reading, and Ellen performed the recession on steel drum. Carol is a freelance writer and editor, mostly in the medical field. Her short stories and poems have appeared in various literary journals, and she was nominated for a 2002 Pushcart Prize. A: 414 NE 5th Ave., #2, Gainesville, FL 32601. E-mail: loraxe@aol.com.

• **Michael Faison** starts work as an assistant professor of physics at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, this fall. He looks forward to settling down in the Northwest and establishing new astronomy research and outreach programs. E-mail: m-faison@northwestern.edu; mfaison@mac.com. • **Bevin Kelley**, one-half of the duo Blectum from Blechdom, received an award of Distinction for Digital Musics at Prix Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria, in 2001. She was a jury member for the Digital Musics prize for Ars Electronica this year, and her second solo CD, *Talon Slalom*, was released on Deluxe Records in May (www.deluxerecs.com). Bevin works as a sound designer for electronic toys in California's Bay Area. A: 4701 San Leandro St., #61, Oakland, CA 94601. E-mail: bevin@blectum.com. • **Dina Kuznetsova** is a member of Chicago's Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, a prestigious residency-training program, where she performed as a flower maiden in the Wagner opera *Parsifal* in April. Last season, her performance with Lyric "sparked the enthusiasm of critics." • **Thisbe Nissen**'s book, *The Good People of New York* (Anchor Books), was released in May. Her latest effort, *The Ex-Boyfriend Cookbook* (Harper Collins), a work of fiction, collage, and recipes with co-author Erin Ergenbright, was published in June. Besides touring and presenting talks, Thisbe spent her summer working on a new novel, *Osprey Island*, due out in 2004 by Knopf. E-mail: thisbe@onegreytoe.com. • **Kelly O'Brien** graduated from Harvard in June with a master's degree in history and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in history at the University of Chicago this fall. • **Matt Ray**, a jazz pianist, was a semi-finalist in the 1999 Thelonious Monk Competition and toured abroad as a U.S. Jazz Ambassador. His recently released debut CD, *We Got It!*, climbed to number 12 on the U.S. jazz radio charts. A: 702 49th St., #1R, Brooklyn, NY 11220. P: 917.297.1776. E-mail: matrray@mindspring.com. Web: matrrayjazz.com.

Booking Across America

“Living in a van [and trailer] has its moments,” laughed Aya Kanai '00, referring to nights spent in the shiny silver 1959 Overlander she, Ginger Brooks Takahashi '99, and other members of the Mobilivre-Bookmobile project managed to maneuver through Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania before pulling into Oberlin last summer. “Someone has to sleep in the trailer to keep an eye on the books.”



made books, visited Montreal in 2001 and discovered a thriving bookbinding culture. Enthused about spreading the art form back home, the pair launched the bookmobile project; they were soon flooded with submissions by 500 eager artists. A small grant enabled them to buy a trailer from a Philadelphia farmer, and the Freecell design studio in New York outfitted the vehicle with curtains, clamp lights, storage benches, and elastic straps



A traveling exhibition of artists' book works, 'zines, and independent publications, the bookmobile visits community centers, schools, festivals, artist-run centers, libraries, prisons, and remote regions where independent publications are hard to come by. A group of coordinators traveling with the exhibition facilitates a series of workshops, artist talks, and educational forums. Thus far, the project has exposed more than 1,000 visitors in the U.S. and Canada to its unique collection.

Kanai and Takahashi, who have a passion for hand-

that secure the menagerie of books to the walls. Oberlin's art department donated \$1,000 to help further their mission.

“Every day someone visits us and gets excited about making books of art,” Kanai said, pointing out several one-of-a-kind 'zines inside the trailer's tight quarters. In one, an artist described her love of ice cream by fashioning a book out of cardboard and vanilla pages. “We had someone submit a book made out of bread,” Takahashi laughed. “But that wouldn't have traveled well.”

The Bookmobile's 2002 tour kicked off in June and will make stops through early November. For an itinerary and more information, visit www.mobilivre.org.

—Yvonne Gay Fowler

1995

David Getsy earned a Ph.D. in art history from Northwestern University after conducting research in London for three years. He moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, this fall, as the Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow to the Leslie Center for the Humanities & Department of Art History at Dartmouth College. David is working on a book about late Victorian sculpture and editing a collection of essays titled “Sculpture and the Pursuit of a Modern Ideal in Britain, c. 1880-1930,” expected to be available next year. E-mail: dg555@breathe.com. • **Christopher LeCluyse** defended his dissertation on bilingualism in medieval English poetry in January and received a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas in May. He had planned to spend part of the summer editing text from an 11th-century manuscript in the UT collection, and the

other half singing in local early music and choral groups. A: 1408 Cullen Ave., Austin, TX 78757. P: 512.453.2733. E-mail: lecluyse@mail.utexas.edu. • **Tracy Dyke Redmond** and **Mark Redmond** were married on May 13, 2001, in Massachusetts. Obies in attendance were **Jennifer Boothby**, **Chaw Chang**, **Anna Himler**, **Jeff Mandelbaum**, **David Newhouse**, and **Matt Utterback**; Ted Chodock and Andrew Roy, both '93; Kate Becker, Dan Butts, Marian Seliqini Gore, Jason Ritt, Danielle Stillman, Aaron Seliqini, and Kevin Ward, all '94; Rob Bettman, Lydia Bryans, Nathan Grant, and Maya Shaw, all '96; Gus Powell '97; and Nate Bryans '98. The couple lives in Boston, where Mark works for The Horizons Initiative, a non-profit for homeless children, and Tracy is an environmental consultant at the Tellus Institute, a non-profit research and consulting organization. E-mail:

dykeredmond@hotmail.com, markwredmond@hotmail.com.

1996

Tom Carroll earned an MD from Wright State University School of Medicine, while wife Kyle McCreight Carroll '98 earned a master's degree in architecture from Miami University of Ohio. The couple moved to Denver, where Kyle is in search of an internship with an architecture firm and Tom will start his residency in general surgery. He plans to study otolaryngology for four years. E-mail: TomCarrollMD@hotmail.com. • **Julie Coris** taught in the Mississippi Delta for five years before taking a teaching position in Juneau, Alaska. “There are more bald eagles here than I would have thought possible,” she says. E-mail: jbcoris@yahoo.com. • **Tamarine Cornelius** earned a master's degree in public policy and has been working

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for the Wisconsin Legislature for the last three years. She is a program evaluator for a nonprofit agency that assists in the prosecution of child abuse cases. E-mail: tamarine@hotmail.com. • **Stephanie Gray** and Hayden Harker '95 married in Eugene, Oregon, March 23 with Obies Dylan O'Reilly, Lisa Lauria, and William Carter, all '95, looking on. In 2001, Stephanie returned to the U.S. after a year in Moscow to coordinate international exchange programs for a local non-profit organization. Hayden is in his fourth year at the University of Oregon, pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics. E-mail: Stephay@clipper.net. • **Jeff Patterson** and wife Hope celebrated their third anniversary and moved from Kentucky to the metro Atlanta area, where Jeff is putting his creative writing education to use as a construction



Marni Raab

attorney. The couple welcomed their first son, Ethan, in July 2001. • **Marni Raab**, a soprano, recently performed as Virginia in *Edgar*, as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, and as Christine in *Phantom of the Opera*. In 2000, she completed a 16-month tour as Jelly in the Stella Productions of *Cats* in Hamburg, Germany. Other performances included Rose Maybud in *Ruddigore* with the Village Light Opera Group, Luisa in *The Fantasticks* with St. Michaels Playhouse, Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* with the Connecticut Grand Opera, and Mrs. Fred in *A Christmas Carol* with the New England Lyric Operetta. Marni joined the Music Box National Tour of the *Phantom of the Opera* in 2001. • **Matthew Shulman** was selected as a Vilar Global Fellow in the Performing Arts at New York University, allowing him to perform and study in New York for two years. A student of jazz studies, he competed against 360 applicants from 191 colleges for one of six fellowships. • **Elena Tootell** earned a medical degree from the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in May and was presented with the Health Care Foundation of New Jersey 2002 Humanism in Medicine Award for demonstrating the highest standards of compassion and sensitivity in interaction with

patients. Elena plans to complete a residency in family practice at the University of California.

1997

Monica Bielski Michal married Ralph Michal in March 2001. She received a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship and is pursuing labor studies at Rutgers University, after which she hopes to teach in a labor studies or women's studies department. Monica and Ralph bought their first home in New Jersey, with four dogs and four parrots. E-mail: monicabm@optonline.net. • **Amelia Watkins** celebrated her Canadian operatic debut in 2001 as Giannetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore* for Opera Ontario. In January 2001, she debuted in New York with a solo recital at the Donnell Library Concert Series, and in April was a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall, where she played Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* with the Rockland Opera. The 2002-03 season began with her first Frasquita in *Carmen* at Mobile Opera. Amelia apprenticed at Berkshire Opera last year and performed with the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Outreach Production, *Opera Under Construction*. She earned a master's of music degree from the Manhattan School of Music in 1999 and was a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2000.



Amelia Watkins

1998

Jennifer Rebecca Bohl earned a medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine on May 19 and plans to complete a residency in transitional and ophthalmology at Summa Health System/Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in Akron. • **Sally L. Neff** received a master's degree in sacred music in May from the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music. She completed a master's thesis and recital titled "Music as Midrash: Music as a Language For the Creation and Communication of Meaning." On May 11, she was invested as a cantor and in July began work at Temple

Emanuel in Wrochester, Massachusetts.

1999

Kate Bauer earned an MS degree in public health from Harvard University in June and moved to Atlanta to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she will be trained for a year before moving elsewhere to develop health promotion programs. "I'm hoping for Puerto Rico so I can spend two years on the beach," she says. E-mail: katebauer@hotmail.com. • **Ian Demsky** graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism's master's program this spring with a concentration in investigative and computer-assisted reporting. Last summer he interned at the *New York Daily News*; this summer he worked on the *Miami Herald's* projects desk. E-mail: ifd6c6@mizzou.edu. • **Josh Raisler Cohn** was released from federal prison in November 2001 after serving a six month maximum sentence for civil disobedience while calling for the closure of the U.S. Army School of the Americas. He has moved to Portland, Oregon, and continues his work for social, economic, and environmental justice. E-mail: joshrc@riseup.net.

2000

Kristin Cowperthwaite joined Rasputina, a psuedo-classical, hard-core "positive-goth" cello band, as second chair. The group's third album, *Cabin Fever*, was released April 9 as a blend of classical and industrial romanticism. The group toured Austin, Texas, earlier this year. Web: www.rasputina.com. • **Marian Potter-Orr** and Daniel Potter-Orr '98 were married June 9, 2001, at Fairchild Chapel. Obies in the wedding party included **Ian Macdonald**, Hannah Pfoutz '97, Samantha Sansevere '98, and Benjamin Sanders '99. The couple lives in Syracuse, New York, where Dan is in the philosophy Ph.D. program at Syracuse University and Marian is the executive director of the New York Section AWWA, a non profit member association. E-mail: marian@nysawwa.com.

CORRECTIONS:

The correct e-mail address for Rachel Cary '87 is rachel@rc-design.net

Losses in the Oberlin Family

STAFF

Ralph Jaycox joined Oberlin's stockroom 15 years ago, and was the owner of Jaycox racing in Amherst. He died on August 5 at the EMH Regional Medical Center, leaving wife and payroll technician Sharon Jaycox, one daughter, and two sons. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society in Elyria.

1923

Mary Burwell Jones married George Tallmon Jones '20 and taught high school English in Lansing, Michigan. She enjoyed traveling, wildlife, reading, and sewing. She died at age 101 on May 2 in Oberlin following a long illness, leaving two daughters, including Frances Jones Hain '48, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

1926

Mary Louise Ainsworth was one of three Obie siblings. She earned a music degree from Oberlin and briefly taught public school in Illinois. She earned a master's degree in music appreciation from Northwestern University, later volunteering as a nurse's aid for the Red Cross in New York City during WWII. In 1948, she moved to Switzerland to participate in the Zurich Institute of Psychology, where she worked with Carl Jung. Ms. Ainsworth celebrated her 90th birthday in 1994 with a family reunion gathering in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She died February 25 in Oakland, California, survived by eight nieces and nephews, including Barbara Harper Thompson '36.

1927

Elizabeth Parsons Wheeler was an assistant professor of zoology at Rutgers University and later taught at three local colleges near her home

in Brattleboro, Vermont. In her later years, she created a program of learning through the study of postage stamps and was honored for her work by the American Association of University Women and the U.S. Postal Service. Mrs. Wheeler died April 8, survived by her three children, sister Eleanor Parsons Priebe '29, and many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

1928

William Bradford (Brad) Bayliss spent his life working on behalf of children and senior citizens. During the war years, he created programs at the YMCA for inner-city children and supported the families of Japanese pacifists in work camps. Mr. Bayliss was a professor of human relations, social psychology, and gerontology at Missouri Valley College for 11 years before moving to Ashland, Oregon, where he served on the Governor's Commission on Senior Services. He founded the first hospice program in his area and was a very active community volunteer, particularly with programs and services for seniors. He was appointed to the White House Conference on aging in 1985 and 1995 and was chairman of its Oregon delegation. Mr. Bayliss died October 5, 2001, survived by his wife, four sons, and two siblings.

Robert Davis Webster, see listing for Arline Flach Webster, class of 1929.

1929

Robert Louis Kroc received his BA and MA from Oberlin and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. He taught at Indiana University from 1933-1944, followed by a 25-year career as director of physiology with the Warner Lambert Pharmaceutical Company in New Jersey. Later, he assumed the presidency of the Kroc Foundation in California, a philanthropic organization dedicated to furthering the research of arthritis, diabetes, and MS. Dr. Kroc served on the board of several scientific research institutions and was honored with an honorary doctorate from Oberlin in 1979. He was president of the Class of 1929 and class agent for several years and was instrumental in forming the Harold Jantz Memorial Lectureship at Oberlin in 1988. Dr. Kroc died April 19, survived by two daughters, including Alice Kroc Hattemer '57; a sister; six grandchildren, including Kristen Hoel '89 and Alexandra Hattemer '90; and five great-grandchildren.

Arline Flach Webster and husband **Robert Davis Webster '28** died last spring within two months of each other. Mrs. Webster, a homemaker and community volunteer, operated a summer girls' camp in Bath, Maine, with her husband for nearly four decades. Mr. Webster was a teacher in Norwood, Ohio, until retiring in 1970. Mrs. Webster died February 16 in Monroe, Ohio; her husband died April 18. The couple is survived by daughter Shirley Webster Cruickshank '54, son Richard, and five grandchildren.

1930

Ruth Stratton Shields married James Shields in 1929 and settled in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. She taught junior high school, then served as director of Christian education at the First Presbyterian Church in her hometown. She finished her career as a housemother at the College of Wooster, retiring in 1983. Mrs. Shields died February 9 in Arden Hills, Minnesota, survived by three children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

1931

E. Sidney Willis was the chairman and executive director of the Chamber of Commerce of Greenwich, Connecticut for 15 years. Under his tenure, membership grew from 100 to 500 members. As a child, he lived in China during the Boxer Rebellion years, which led to his later book, *Kansas Kid in China*. Mr. Willis worked for General Electric, where he was founding trustee of the Council of Employment Benefits, president of Unemployment Advisors, Inc., and secretary of GE's pension trust. Later, he started a travel agency and served on numerous town committees. Mr. Willis died March 15, survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, three stepchildren, and several grandchildren.

1932

Edwin Whitmer taught in Ohio public high schools and worked for the Toledo office of Ernst and Ernst accounting firm, during which time he obtained his CPA designation. He was later the comptroller for the Bartley Company and retired in 1976 from the National Bank of Toledo. He died April 10, survived by three children and two grandchildren.

1933

M. Caroline Boyd was a teacher in Massillon, Ohio, and encouraged many of her

Memorial Minute

GEOFFREY THOMAS BLODGETT

1931-2001

GEOFFREY BLODGETT joined the Oberlin faculty in 1960. When he retired four decades later, he had served the College longer than any other member of its Department of History. But his long and remarkable association with Oberlin did not begin with his appointment to the faculty. He had first visited the campus at least a dozen years earlier as a schoolboy, pondering his educational future. In later years he claimed that what had drawn him decisively to the College was the sight of a red-headed woodpecker on South Professor Street during that visit.

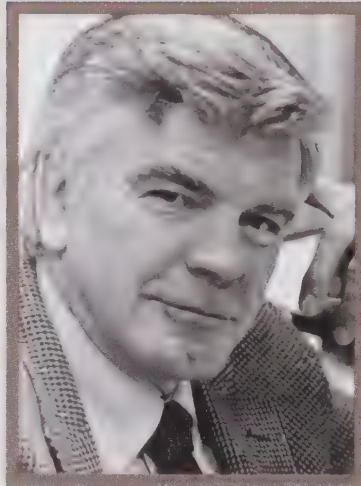
If that amusing proposition reflects some of his skepticism about conventional pieties, it also reveals a durable interest. When he got around to applying for admission, he wrote about growing up on the outskirts of Schenectady, "first as the leader of a well-organized 'army,' and later as a nature-lover, especially in the field of ornithology." The boyish army leader recalled the Second World War, during which he became a teenager. His leadership and sharp-eyed love for nature were evident throughout his life.

He enrolled at Oberlin in the fall of 1949 and received his BA in 1953. Along the way, he set records as a member of the varsity football team, was awarded the Carrie C. Life Prize in American History, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and met and wooed his future bride. He served proudly for two years in the United States Navy and then launched into graduate study at Harvard. His work there was supported in part by an Emerton Fellowship in 1955-56 and a Social Science Research Council Fellowship in 1959-60.

In the winter of 1959, he was in the final throes of writing his Ph.D. dissertation and also looking for a job. Coincidentally and quite unexpectedly, his Oberlin mentor, Robert S. Fletcher, had just died, leaving a vacancy in American history. His colleagues moved swiftly and decisively to settle Fletcher's mantle on Blodgett's shoulders.

Fletcher was best known for his history of Oberlin from its founding through the Civil War. It was a seminal and justly famous work, which showed the value of rigorous, well-informed institutional history. That achievement imposed expectations on Blodgett, and he met them with distinction. He became Oberlin's unofficial historian.

His early and brilliant essay on "John Mercer Langston and the Case of Edmonia Lewis," printed in the *Journal of Negro History*, picked up where Fletcher had left off. Its subject was a bizarre succession of events that occurred in 1862, and in Blodgett's skillful hands it makes a riveting short story. It is a short story with some bite, indeed, for it not only probes the troubled interaction of race and



gender—two of Oberlin's durable passions—but it also exposes a convoluted mixture of nobility and hypocrisy that has long characterized its legacy of perfectionism.

His knowledge and understanding of Oberlin's history grew steadily and were universally acknowledged. In response to frequent questions and demands, he wrote and spoke on a myriad of topics that have a part in that rich history, from militarism and pacifism to faculty governance to the tensions between what he called "academic excellence" and "stubborn moral idealism." Had he lived to enjoy the long retirement that he had earned, he probably would have published the magisterial history of

Oberlin of which he alone was capable. Instead, when he learned that his illness was terminal, he spent much of his diminishing strength on preparing for publication many of his brief essays about the College's past. Thanks to President Dye's support, that work has been assured of publication and will add posthumous luster to his reputation.

As a historian, however, Blodgett saw Oberlin as a small piece of a much greater puzzle. Thus, though he gracefully dedicated his first book to Professor Fletcher, its subject was a complex era in American political history. Entitled *The Gentle Reformers*, and published by the Harvard University Press in 1966, its compelling narrative charts the dedication, the hard work, and the failure of several late 19th-century reformers in Massachusetts for whom the epithet "mugwump" was coined. The mixture of lofty idealism and political ineptitude in those earnest reformers fascinated Blodgett, and it recurs with elegant variations in many of his writings. He once wrote that "the Mugwump gentry," as he called them, "were part of a broad elitist urge to impose the values of coherence, stability, and continuity on a ramshackle society through the assertion of trained intelligence." He excelled at untangling the complexities involved in such collisions and at portraying the human figures who engaged in them. Grover Cleveland, Victoria Woodhull, Frederick Law Olmsted, Ida Tarbell, Henry George, Cass Gilbert: all of them were case studies in that elemental and distinctively American struggle, and all were beneficiaries of Blodgett's scrutiny.

His scholarship was remarkable in its range and thoroughness. The high esteem in which he was held within his profession may be gauged roughly by about 50 major book reviews that he contributed to leading journals in history. He admired scholarly distinction in others, just as he demanded it of himself, and he ardently believed that it was the bedrock of excellent teaching. He acted consistently on that belief—for example, as a member of the College Faculty

Council (to which he was frequently elected) he was influential in introducing the use of external scholarly reviewers as a hedge against provincial myopia in faculty personnel decisions.

He was himself a superlative teacher. His classroom lectures were luminous essays in the craft of history. Former students have testified publically and privately to his powerful impact on their thinking, and many of those students have gone on to distinguished careers as professional historians. The subjects with which he dealt were seminal, embracing the social, political, and intellectual history of modern America. Perhaps the most remarkable course in his portfolio was his widely acclaimed *Social History of American Architecture*. It had its roots in a course that he took as an undergraduate from Clarence Ward, but he shaped it into a rich summation of his own historical perspicuity.

Indeed, he found in architecture a subject that suited his intellectual interests, his grasp of history, his artistic temperament, and his gift for telling stories. His capacious vision meshed with local history when in 1985 he published *Oberlin Architecture: College and Town*. It is an impressive monument not only to his brilliant sense of local and institutional history, but also to his understanding of history as an artful science and to the artfulness with which he toiled at his craft. At first glance it has the leisurely flavor of a stroll around campus and the village that embraces it, but the description of each building is set within a deep appreciation for the social, political, and intellectual forces that have been at work in the world beyond Plum Creek. Moreover, that combination is backlit by the clarity, vigor, and ingenuity of the Blodgett prose. The book garnered an award from the Western Reserve Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, and its popularity led to a second printing in 1990.

One notable American architect in particular drew and held his gaze, and that was Cass Gilbert. Gilbert's impact on Oberlin is readily apparent. His importance for American architectural history is just as certain, but less well understood. Blodgett toiled strenuously at the task of shedding light on that tract of darkness, even through the trammels of his final illness. A few days before his death, he was able to hold the first printed copy of his last book, *Cass Gilbert: the Early Years*. On the day after his death, the Minnesota Historical Society awarded him its prize for the best article published in the year 2000 in Minnesota history. That article, on Gilbert's courtship and marriage, had been a harbinger of the book. Two of his essays on Gilbert—one of them on the Oberlin connection—have been published since his death.

The zest, the intellect, the talent that marked his work as a historian informed the rest of his life as well. He was, for example, a splendid photographer. He bought his first camera when he was in Japan during his Navy service, and he hung a memorable display of his photographs in the lobby of Mudd Library during the April weekend in 2000 when his colleagues hosted a dinner in honor of his retirement. He was an indefatigable traveller, and was rarely so happy as when, at the wheel of his beloved Honda Prelude, he tooled along New York highways, listening to country music, bent on a visit to the Springdale Farm of his youthful memories. He was unabashedly patriotic. He conducted an extensive correspondence, and his letters were delicious. He was a vigorous member of the College's Architectural Review Committee, and he had a major hand in the process that led to the building of the Clark Bandstand on Tappan Square. He authored the inscriptions on the campus monument to John Frederick Oberlin and on the Wellington Rescue memorial at Martin Luther King Jr. Park in downtown Oberlin.

A visitor to his office on the third floor of Rice Hall would have entered through a door engagingly decorated with an array of cartoons freshly carved from *The New Yorker* and photocopied excerpts of amusing and pithy texts unearthed during his tireless research. His bookshelves were filled and overflowing onto the floor. A handsome Morris chair, a bust of John Brown, and posters on the wall reflected his taste and enthusiasm as a collector. The gallery of photographic portraits above his desk bore witness to the force of *dramatis personae* in his own historical imagination. On the shelf beneath the window reposed the typewriter with which he held the computer revolution so long at bay. And in his office chair was Jeff himself, his eyes sparkling and focused on the visitor and ready to celebrate the joy of minds at play, however light or serious the agenda might be.

He was born in Hanover, New Hampshire, on October 13, 1931, and died in the library of his Oak Street home on November 15, 2001. He leaves behind his wife, Jane Taggart Blodgett '54; three daughters—Lauren Sharpe, Barbara Blodgett, and Sally Olson; and four granddaughters. His ashes are buried in Westwood Cemetery. Oberlin left its mark on him, and he generously returned the favor: his mark on Oberlin is imperishable.

ROBERT LONGSWORTH is professor emeritus of English at Oberlin. This Memorial Minute was adopted by a rising vote of the General Faculty of Oberlin College on April 16, 2002.

students to attend the Conservatory at Oberlin. She died in February.

Eva Mae Parker Crosby was the first African American woman to graduate from the Ohio State University Law School. She returned to Oberlin to practice law, then earned a teaching certificate and taught in the Oberlin City Schools

for 14 years. She moved to Columbus in 1963 and taught junior high math until taking over the Crosby Funeral Home after the death of her husband. She was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame in 1986 and named Woman of the Year in 1999 by the Columbus chapter of the Black Women of Courage. Mrs. Crosby died April 1, survived by two daughters, two grandchildren,

and three great-grandchildren.

Olive Willoughby Shaw served for more than 40 years as a deaconess for the United Church of Canada, where she worked with all age groups, from nursery schools to women's groups to senior citizens. She died February 23 in Manitoba, Canada.

1934

Mary Alice Seelye Gaylor taught second grade and music in the Port Jefferson, New York, schools from 1953 to 1971. After retiring, she volunteered at the Mather Hospital Thrift shop and played the piano for community events. Her late husband, Leland, taught high school history in Port Jefferson for 27 years. Mrs. Gaylor died February 6, survived by a daughter.

Lewis Whiting was a practicing surgeon in Springfield, Massachusetts, from 1949 through 1984, with positions as chief of surgery and president of the medical staff, at Wesson Memorial Hospital. As the medical director of the Student Health Service at Springfield College and a teacher/lecturer in health matters, he was dedicated to helping others achieve a healthy lifestyle. His interests were varied: he was a certified motorcycle mechanic, a language arts volunteer, a protector of wildlife, and a lover of outdoor sports. Dr. Whiting was a 23-year prostate cancer survivor who died February 26 following a stroke. He is survived by his wife, Esther, of 60 years; four children; and many grandchildren.

1935

Dean "Bump" Bumpus, a 40-year oceanographer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts, pitched tens of thousands of glass bottles into the Atlantic Ocean over the course of 30 years in an attempt to track ocean currents. He affixed labels that read "Break This Bottle" and enclosed postcards asking finders to reply with the date and place each bottle was found. Although he couldn't say how many surface drifters were deployed during the program, during the 1960s alone 165,566 bottles were released by ships and planes along the East Coast, with an estimated 10 percent return. Much of Mr. Bumpus' personal time was devoted to children. He formed Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops in the Falmouth area and spent 40 years training leaders on the national level, earning awards for his skills and contributions to scouting. After retiring from WHOI in 1977, he lived in Denmark and Brownfield, Maine. Mr. Bumpus died March 14 in Woods Hole, survived by a son, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a female companion.

Robert Mallory married Merle Satone Stoddard '44 after World War II and began a

distinguished career in oil exploration, first as a field geologist in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He managed progressively larger offices throughout the country and Canada and was elected president of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association. He retired in 1972 from Champlin Oil Company and later moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. Mr. Mallory was a passionate family man and enjoyed sports, boats, mountain climbing, and hiking. He died February 8, leaving his wife; two sons, Douglas Mallory '73 and Robert Mallory '76; a daughter; and four grandchildren.

1937

Rosamond "Sally" Salisbury Runner died February 15 following a long battle with ill health.

1939

Charlotte Cowley Hall majored in piano at the Conservatory and throughout her life was in demand to perform her humorous presentations to local organizations. A lifelong resident of LaVale, Maryland, she was a pianist for the Eastern Stars and the Daughters of the Nile and taught privately to children for several years. She was a 40-year volunteer at Memorial Hospital, logging in more than 2,500 hours of service. Mrs. Hall died February 15, survived by her husband, three children, two grandchildren, and a brother.

Margaret Veronica Latran Harold was a substitute teacher in Oklahoma and North Carolina and taught foreign language in Upper Arlington, Ohio, before retiring in 1980 and later moving back to Oberlin. She offered elementary classroom lessons in French and Spanish over the radio and was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. A race car driver and published poet, Mrs. Harold enjoyed karate and had earned a black belt. She died April 26 in Oberlin, survived by three nephews, including Bert Latran '65.

1940

Durard Miller died March 26 in La Jolla, California.

William "Mac" McNulty Moore retired from the Carr Equipment Company in Columbus and was a member of York Masonic Lodge and Maple Grove United Methodist Church. He died April 9, survived by his wife and son.

1942

Foo Chu was perhaps best known at Oberlin as a photographer, and particularly for his photos of the Hindenburg explosion, which were published in a national newspaper. Dr. Chu attended medical school at Cornell Medical College, was certified in internal medicine and pathology, and maintained a private practice while teaching at Cornell and Albert Einstein colleges of medicine. He was a longtime board member and advisor of the Hamilton Madison Settlement, a provider of social, medical, and psychological services that offered care in five Asian dialects. He was working actively at Lincoln Hospital in New York up until his death on February 22, which followed a short illness. He leaves his wife and three children.

John Purves spent much of his life in church and college posts, including that of director of information for the Mennonite Central Committee in Pennsylvania, vice president of development at Bluffton College, and director of alumni affairs and continuing education at Oberlin. In Botswana, Africa, he spent time as headmaster of a secondary school, and later as coordinator of the Education Management Project and as a tutor for the Botswana Theological Training Program. He married Christine Habegger '40 in 1943 and had three daughters. Mr. Purves retired to Bluffton, Ohio, in 1986, where he volunteered for the Lima Symphony Board, Alternative Health Care Clinic, and for environmental organizations. He died March 25, survived by his wife, daughters, three grandchildren, and a foster grandson.

1943

Janet Duff Murphy, emeritus physical education instructor and women's athletic director at Texas Christian University, taught water safety, first aid, and CPR for the Red Cross for over 30 years. In Fort Worth, Texas, she was a member of several golf associations and an ardent bridge player. Mrs. Murphy died in June 2000, survived by her husband, three sons, two brothers, and many grandchildren.

Ruth Riggs Steiner was born in Istanbul as the daughter of congressional missionaries in the Middle East. She was raised in Beirut, Lebanon, and enrolled at Oberlin as war was breaking out in Europe. She worked for many

ELISABETH ROTERMUND

1921-2001

ELISABETH VOLCKMAR ROTERMUND, director of German House for 24 years, was born on May 2, 1921, in Rio de Janeiro, where her father worked as a journalist. Until 1930, she and her brother spent every second year in Germany, the native country of their parents. Elisabeth stayed in Germany with relatives from 1930 to 1935, but when political conditions grew ever more ominous, she returned to Brazil. There, she ended her high school education, but in 1939 traveled again to Germany. Her father had stressed that it might be a long time before she could see her friends there again. Three months later, she left Germany once more. In her words, "the political situation was too threatening."

Legally separated from her husband in 1952—Brazil had no divorce law at the time—Elisabeth emigrated to the United States with her young children, Manfred and Renata. After teaching German at a private East Coast school, she joined the staff at Oberlin in 1962.

Elisabeth arrived in Oberlin when foreign language study was flourishing and German House, founded in 1956, was prospering remarkably. Located in Webster Hall between the Conservatory and the Methodist church, it housed 30 students, but lunched and dined 70 to 80 daily. Meals were served by student waitresses and waiters, the diners dressed formally, and conversations in German buzzed at every table. Within the dorm itself, the language code likewise prevailed. Cultural events were varied, lively, and well attended.

Elisabeth maintained and nourished this enviable state of affairs as long as the *Zeitgeist* allowed it, which, in fact, was fated to be a relatively short time. The activist Oberlin of the Vietnam and Watergate eras was soon to see its decline.

After a brief interlude in Old Barrows, Elisabeth moved with her wards to the new Max Kade German House in 1969. Here, she made the transition from traditional "house mother" to a more narrowly defined assignment as faculty-in-residence. During this era, the College saw greater diversification in its foreign language offerings, but also the removal of the language requirement. With it came both a gradual weakening of German enrollments and the dorm ethos that had held sway in the "old days." Students wanted emphatically to do their "own thing" and in the language of their choosing. This period also saw the introduction of same-floor coeducational living, unisex washrooms, and, eventually, the closing of the language house dining halls. To these and other shifting challenges to her work at Oberlin, Elisabeth adjusted successfully.

Above all, she brought to her position a rich multicultural background, which included fluency in four languages and a heightened sensitivity toward German history in the 20th century. This latter quality she owed in large part to her international as well as her home upbringing. It represented her firmest inner convictions and became apparent not only in discussion with her, but also in her guidance of

the cultural program at German House. Nowhere in the dorm ambiance or activities was there a hint of the false romanticism that typified the popular tourist image of Germany long after the downfall of National Socialism, which had perverted the German cultural heritage for its own destructive ends. Elisabeth would have no part of the thoughtless folksiness naively cultivated by German clubs on campuses less prone to critical thinking than Oberlin.

By nature, Elisabeth was a low-key, outwardly shy person, soft-spoken to the point where she could be almost inaudible. Without doubt, this posed an obstacle to her effectiveness in the dorm as well as the classroom, where she mainly taught beginning and conversational German courses. But what she lacked in verve, she compensated for through her steadfast devotion to her students and her readiness to spend nearly unlimited time with them individually. Especially in the dorm, students felt she knew and understood them as others did not. She made herself available to them beyond the call of duty and, in changing times, cheerfully applied the principle of "live and let live." In her well-informed political views, she was decidedly liberal, and students appreciatively noted that she supported varied life styles as long as they were not disruptive.

Elisabeth's students responded to her with loyalty and affection. Long after leaving Oberlin, students wrote to her and visited her whenever they returned to campus. Her graduate assistants, recruited annually from Germany, displayed this same warm attachment to her. On her summer trips to Germany, which increased as she solidified her financial situation, Elisabeth was welcomed by several of them as a guest in their homes. She said on retiring: "The students I've had contact with have been most important to me. What makes me happiest about my job are the lasting friendships I have had through the years."

During her retirement at Kendal, Elisabeth remained the avid reader she had always been. Whoever was familiar with her personal library knew of her discerning tastes and interests, most particularly her interest in contemporary German fiction. She also swam regularly as long as her health allowed it. But after having weathered a protracted personal crisis at the College, in time she began to fade physically and emotionally and required assisted care. Above all, it was the visits by her children that cheered her.

Elisabeth died at Kendal on October 26, 2001, at age 81. Her life was a modest one, but her contribution to the College during a quarter-century of service was far larger than the records will show. To this, her colleagues and, most tellingly, her former students will bear testimony.

SIDNEY ROSENFELD is a professor emeritus of German. This Memorial Minute was adopted by a rising vote of the General Faculty of Oberlin College on April 16, 2002.

Memorial Minute

DENES KOROMZAY

1913-2001

DENES KOROMZAY was born in Hungary in 1913 and received his training at the Franz List Academy of Music, culminating with the Artist Diploma. He was employed at Oberlin for the 1972-73 year as visiting professor of chamber music and subsequently appointed professor of chamber and viola the following year. He retired from Oberlin on December 31, 1979. Denes later served part time at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and passed away in the fall of 2001.

Former colleague Andor Toth notes, "Denes Koromzay was an early coach for many of the worlds' better quartets: the Lindsey Quartet, the Takacs Quartet, and the Colorado Quartet. He also taught members of the Vermeer Quartet (2), the Pendereki Quartet (2), and the Lydian and Chester Quartet. He taught many other individuals who later had lives in major chamber music organizations. On a personal note, he loved fine food and wines and was a world-class bridge player."

Denes was a founding member of the Hungarian Quartet in

1937, which concertized extensively until 1972. Trapped for five years in Holland during the Second World War, the quartet occupied itself by perfecting the Beethoven Cycle. Later, they brought performances and recordings of the classical canon to music lovers worldwide, twice recording the Beethoven Quartet Cycle in Paris.

As a member of the Hungarian Quartet (and, after their retirement, the New Hungarian Quartet), Denes performed in every major concert venue in the world, playing 100 to 150 concerts a year for almost 45 years. It is clear from his biography that Mr. Koromzay exemplified the ideals of intellectual and artistic excellence that characterize Oberlin College Conservatory, and he will be missed.

PETER SLOWIK is a professor of viola. This Memorial Minute was adopted by a rising vote of the General Faculty of Oberlin College on April 16, 2002.

years as a commercial artist at Raytheon Manufacturing in Waltham, Massachusetts. She died in Oak Park, Illinois, in February, survived by a daughter, son, and three grandchildren.

1946

Frances MacPherson Chase earned an MA from Oberlin in 1951 and worked for 26 years as executive secretary for the communications law firm of Cohn and Marks in Washington, D.C. An avid hiker, she was a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and active with Oberlin's D.C. alumni chapter. In 1999 she met her third husband, John, then was shortly diagnosed with lymphoma. The couple married in 2000. Mrs. Chase died February 23, survived by her husband.

1947

Roderick Hines met his wife of 53 years, Jean Olson '46, at Oberlin. He received a Ph.D. in experimental physics from the University of Michigan, then did research at the Ford Motor Company, where he developed electrostatic metal-painting techniques. He served from 1957 until his retirement as a professor of physics at Northwestern University,

where his students applauded his entertaining demonstrations of physics in action, such as how boomerangs fly and why helium makes one's voice squeaky. In his laboratory, he developed gold films of only a few atoms thickness and explored the workings of the electron microscope to improve its imaging power. His work took him on sabbatical studies with the Cavendish Laboratories and Churchill College of Cambridge University. The father of five, Dr. Hines showed them the world through his eyes, with science as an explanatory tool. He was a clarinet player and singer in an a cappella choir, a barbershop quartet, a church choir, and the Cambridge University Music Society. Dr. Hines, 76, died May 19 of complications due to Parkinson's Syndrome. He is survived by his wife, five children, including Pamela Hines '74 and Jennifer Hines '84, one brother, and ten grandchildren.

1948

Eleanor Sizer Williams taught school in several places where her husband, a scientist, worked. After his death, she and her daughter moved to California, and Mrs. Williams later embarked on travels around the world. She lived for a year each in London, Jerusalem,

Hong Kong, Sydney, and South Africa. She obtained an international certificate to teach English conversation, which provided her with a source of income and the means to meet people while overseas. In 1990, Mrs. Williams returned to San Francisco and was active in the Older Women's League and a folk-singing group. She died March 3, survived by her daughter and two grandchildren.

1949

May Hanning Dudley was a lifelong church organist, choirmaster, and music teacher. She married Winston "Wink" Dudley '43 in 1949 and was active in many musical endeavors, including choir direction at First United Methodist Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salem, Oregon. She volunteered for the Walton House and medical auxiliaries and was a member of the Willamette University Institute for Continued Learning. She died June 19, 2001, survived by her husband, son Eric Dudley '74, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

1959

Robert Wilson Paisley practiced law in Steubenville and Columbus and later worked

at the Paisley Bros. Store in Irondale, Ohio. He was a member of the Irondale United Methodist Church and an associate member of the Granville First Presbyterian Church. He died March 18 in Newark, Ohio, survived by two sisters and seven nieces and nephews.

1962

Lawrence Longley had a 37-year tenure as a political scientist at Lawrence University and authored more than 100 books and studies about politics. A long-time member of the Democratic National Committee, he served on its executive committee in 1996 and 1997. He was a U.S. presidential elector in the 1988 and 1992 presidential elections and an area campaign leader for four democratic presidential candidates. Dr. Longley acted as a consultant on the Electoral College and its process for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. He received two Fulbright lectureships, serving as the John Marshall Chair in Political Science at Budapest University of Economics and the Thomas Jefferson Chair in American Social Studies at the Nijmegen University in the Netherlands. Dr. Longley died March 20 in Appleton, Wisconsin, survived by his wife and two daughters.

1964

William Jay Hannan, Jr. was a grants analyst for the U.S. Department of Transportation, then volunteered as grants director for Sign of Jonah Clinic in Washington, D.C. He served Oberlin as a member of the Alumni Council, including its Trustee Search Committee, and as Class president and agent for many years. He died September 29, 2001, survived by his parents, a sister, two nieces, and a nephew.

1965

Lemuel A. Johnson was a professor of English and literature at the University of Michigan, the Colegio de Mexico, Fourah Bay College at the University of Sierra Leone, and the Salzberg Seminar. He served as president of the African Literature Association, vice president of the Association of Caribbean Studies, and on the Africa Committee of the Social Science Research Council. He was an author, poet, and critic who received numerous awards from the University of Michigan, including a certificate of distinction for outstanding teaching. Born and raised in Sierra Leone, West Africa, Dr. Johnson received the

highest score in West Africa on the Cambridge University Higher School Certificate examinations in 1960. He died March 12 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, survived by his wife, daughter, son, and granddaughter.

Richard D. McKelvey was the Edie and Lew Wasserman Professor of Political Science and director of the William D. Hacker Social Science Experimental Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. He made fundamental contributions to voting theory, game theory, social choice theory, experimental political science, and computational economics. Dr. McKelvey served on the editorial boards of many journals and received numerous honors, including election into the National Academy of Sciences and a fellowship in the Econometric Society. He died

April 22 in Altadena, California, survived by his wife and three children.

1986

Kathleen Granrose was an assistant professor of Spanish and women's studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she also acted as an academic advisor and webmaster for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. She was a member of the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women and worked as a translator for an elementary school, the United States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Court, and ConArga Foods. She died April 19 in Omaha, Nebraska, survived by her parents, brother, sister, husband, and two sons. ●

"Dr. Flu" Steven R. Mostow '60

My brother Steve died March 25 in a private airplane crash near Denver. He was the pilot and was doing someone a favor. He loved to fly.

I was a freshman at Oberlin when Steve was a senior. He was a fun-loving jock and a serious pre-med student. He played "boogie" and sang new rock and roll songs on the dorm pianos. I still have his freshman beanie with Elvis' name inscribed on it. I remember Steve walking hand-in-hand with his love, Suzie Kosman. They married right after College and had two children.

Steve made it to med school at Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He worked there as a faculty member and also as a staff physician at Cleveland Metro Hospital. He moved to Denver in 1976, where he worked at the VA hospital, the Rose Medical Center (where he chaired the Department of Medicine for many years), and as associate dean of outreach at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He was an avid skier and mountain hiker.

Steve became semi-famous. He was an infectious disease expert, and each year he publicized the latest strain of flu by giving flu shots to folks in newsworthy locations, such as Sen. Jesse Helms in the Senate anteroom, TV traffic reporters in their helicopters, and people on the *Today Show*. He was a great TV news performer.

Steve served as vice president of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. Last winter, he sat between Bill Gates and Jimmy Carter at an awards banquet. He introduced Carter, who presented the award to Gates.

Steve loved the rural medical outreach part of his life. He was paid to fly small planes to small towns and deal with real medical problems. He was a consultant, an expert, and an expeditor.

Steve's family connections to Oberlin are many: his wife Suzie '60, brother Nelson '69, sister Judy Mostow Filner '66, brother-in-law Dan Kosman '63, nephew Matt Filner '91, and niece Laura Mostow '02. He also leaves his daughter, son, and grandson.

—Ken Mastow '66

Offering a hand over the generational divide

Over 30 and making a trade-off: lose some authority and gain some trust.

During freshman orientation at Brandeis University in 1964, I sat in terror while an upperclassman named Joel Doerfler described the state of relations between the students and the college administration. It was all-out war.

"You will be pitted against the slickest operators in the business," he told the incoming Class of 1968. "Some of you will quite literally 'live in fear.' But think not of your transgressions as acts of moral disobedience, but rather as creative victories. Get away with as much as you can, but don't get caught."

The speaker's immediate rage was directed at a particular campus policy—restricting male and female students from entertaining each other in their rooms. But his words were intended also as an introduction to the inescapable facts of inter generational life: adults in positions of power were dangerous. They didn't understand anything. They were the enemy and must be treated as such.

Joel Doerfler didn't enter my mind for more than three decades, but memories of his speech suddenly came back as I watched my daughter's orientation to the Class of 2005 at Oberlin, a few hours down the road from Brandeis, but culturally and demographically much the same.

Needless to say, there was no Joel Doerfler inciting freshmen to rebel against sexual rules. Those rules fell a long time ago—in fact, before my own class had even graduated. But what struck me this time wasn't the attitude of the students, it was the posture of the adults.

My college years—at one of the most politically liberal institutions in America at that time—were marked by daily collisions between nervous post-adolescents and middle-aged adults struggling to maintain authority: a registrar who barked out sarcastic directions to bewildered freshmen trying to understand course requirements; distinguished faculty who invited questions and then humiliated the questioners; stern deans with crew-cuts who warned that violating the rules meant an indelible smudge on a permanent record.

They are gone now, all of them. In their place are professors and deans who come from my generation—people for whom it is a social error to treat students with even a trace of rudeness—let alone arrogance or condescension. They have reached the age at which one might finally be able to intimidate the young, but that is the last thing they wish to do. What they want is to be nice people.

"We need to take some risks and get to know each other," Oberlin president Nancy Dye told the freshmen "Each of us needs to respect each others' differences." The dean of students urged parents to "contemplate your own first day of college, remembering your own cluelessness and feeling grateful that your son or daughter

seems to have a better grip than you did." I don't recall any adult saying things like that in 1964.

I sat in the balcony of Finney Chapel listening to all the professions of adult niceness and was amazed to find myself thinking of the climactic line from Roberto Benigni's film, *Life is Beautiful*. "This," the narrator says, "is the sacrifice my father made for me."

It sounds like a bizarre comparison. The father in that movie gave up his life so his son could survive a Nazi concentration camp. My generation is, after all, known not for sacrifice but for self-indulgence. But we have made one sacrifice worth talking about. We have given up our authority so our children can cross into the adult world without being terrified. We welcome them into that world with smiles and helpful directions. We have dismantled the adversarial culture that prevailed between generations

on college campuses and in the rest of society in our youth. This is the sacrifice we have made for them.

It is no small sacrifice. In tearing down the old cultural wall that separated adolescent and adult we have given up some valuable things. Most of the adults who ruled during my youth used their authority to communicate a coherent set of values that their children could either accept or reject, once they grew up. My generation has difficulty doing that. When we talk about traditions and values, even those of a proud college nearly two centuries old, we do it with a bow toward the ironic sensibilities of the teenagers we have just

raised. It's hard to serve up tradition straight any more. That's a loss that deserves at least a moment of mourning.

Still, it's equally difficult to visit a campus these days without thinking seriously about the gains. The adults and the kids don't seem like creatures from different planets. They may not speak quite the same language, but they share cultural trappings in a way that we and our parents never did. My daughter and I both know the lyrics to "American Pie." That doesn't erase the realities of generational difference, but it does make the whole notion of parental and pedagogical intimidation difficult, if not ludicrous.

Most of us have lost the ability, as middle-aged adults in the 21st century, to make a credible case to our children about eternal truths. What we can do instead is smile at them, joke about our own failings, tell them to relax, have a nice day, answer their e-mail, and learn something in the process if they can.

The older I get, the more that seems like a decent trade. ●

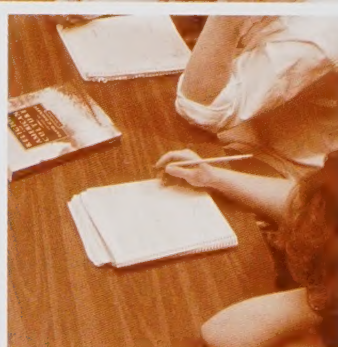
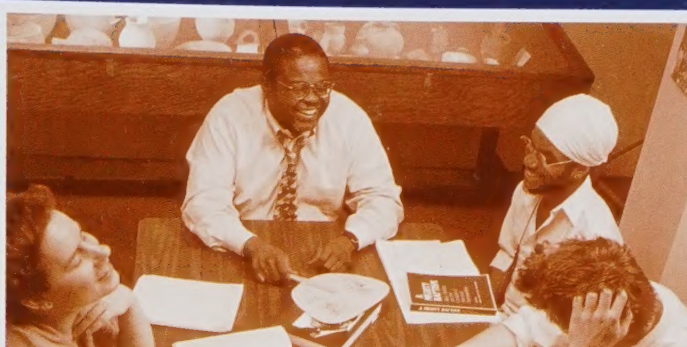


Alan Ehrenhalt, right, with his daughter Elizabeth '05.

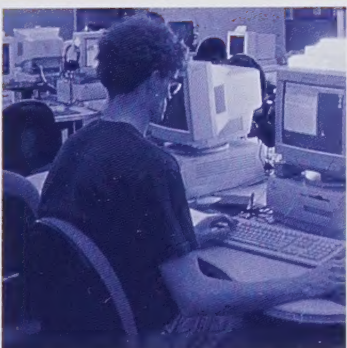
Alan Ehrenhalt is the father of Oberlin student Elizabeth Ehrenhalt. He is the executive editor of *Governing Magazine* and author of *The United States of Ambition* and *The Lost City*.

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ONE MORE THING

Which Way to Oberlin?

photo by Bonnie DeSimone '79



No, we didn't resort to computer trickery. This street sign actually exists, but can you guess where? E-mail your answers to alum.mag@oberlin.edu. The location will be revealed in the Winter issue of the OAM. The first alum to send us the correct answer will receive an Oberlin, "Changing the World" T-shirt.

Good luck!